

**HOLLYWOOD**

Write a film script and win a trip to Hollywood. Details, p34

**SCREEN TEST**

**RUGBY SAFARI**

Win an 18-day wildlife and World Cup trip, p45  
Competition preview, p48

**BODY AND MIND**

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh on how to cure insomnia without using pills, p17

**20P**

THE TIMES  
SCREEN  
WRITING  
COMPETITION

# THE TIMES



No. 65,276 THURSDAY MAY 25 1995

Lady Wilson and Lady Falkender listen to farewells to the man who won four elections

## Parliament pays tribute to Wilson

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

POLITICAL differences were set aside yesterday as party leaders united in generous tribute to Harold Wilson, Labour's most successful Prime Minister, after his death at the age of 79.

John Major and Tony Blair led the homage to the man who led Labour to four general election victories, including its last in October 1974.

Each praised characteristics of one of the giants of the post-war era — Mr Blair his modernising instincts, Mr Major his ability to conciliate — which they are themselves having to exhibit.

Both Houses of Parliament abandoned business for the day after its most senior figures had delivered moving farewells to Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, who died peacefully in his sleep in St Thomas's Hospital. The Queen sent a private message of sympathy to his wife Mary, who nursed her husband through the difficult final years as Alzheimer's Disease took its toll.

With Lady Wilson and his former political secretary Lady Falkender watching from the public gallery, Mr Major said that Lord Wilson would go down as one of the most brilliant men of his generation. He was "a complex man, a clever man, a man



Matthew Parris... 2  
Wife and secretary... 6  
Body and Mind... 17  
Gerald Kaufman... 18  
William Rees-Mogg... 18  
Leading article... 19  
Obituary... 21

less, forward-looking, modern. Harold Wilson set out to become the best — and he did," Mr Blair added. "He once said: 'The Labour Party is a moral crusade or it is nothing'. That should be his real epitaph."

Harold Wilson's election record was unequalled by any Prime Minister in modern times, and only Margaret Thatcher has occupied Number 10 for a longer period of peacetime this century.

His first, narrow, victory came in 1964 after 13 years of Tory rule, and he consolidated with an election 18 months later that gave him a majority of 100. After losing to Edward Heath in 1970, he staged a remarkable comeback, winning elections in February and October 1974, before stunning the country by resigning in 1976.

A superb parliamentary performer and media manipulator, Harold Wilson caught the public imagination with his pledge to transform Britain in the "white heat of technology".

But his governments soon became bogged down in a series of domestic and international crises. He lost the battle to avoid devaluing the pound in 1967 and made things worse by telling people that it did not mean "the pound in your



The women behind Harold Wilson - Marcia Falkender and his wife Mary - set off to listen to MPs and peers pay tribute to the former Prime Minister

pocket" was worth less. His biggest surprise as Prime Minister was his last — his sudden resignation. For years, conspiracy theories abounded over why he went, but the political world has recently come to accept that he had simply had enough.

Most of those paying tribute yesterday said that his reputation as the supreme political fixer, rather than a great

statesman, was unfair and more kindly. "He was the most successful leader that Labour has ever had, although on each occasion he came to office at a time of great economic difficulty," his successor, Lord Callaghan, said.

Lord Jenkins, who served him as Home Secretary and Chancellor, said: "I think he will stand in history as not one

of the greatest of prime ministers but as a very good member of the second group who certainly had his impact on British politics." Sir Edward Heath said "this country owes a great deal to him. We are grateful."

Lord Wilson's later years in power were marred by complaints about the influence of his kitchen cabinet, particularly Lady Falkender, the former

Marcia Williams. And these culminated in the controversy over his "lavender" resignation honours, so called because a draft was written on Mrs Williams's notepad.

Lady Falkender visited Lord Wilson for the last time only hours before he died, and though sad yesterday, she managed to keep her composure as she described it as the end of an era. Earlier, she had

issued a statement which said: "He was one of the great prime ministers who devoted his entire working life to the Labour Party and through it the creation of a more modern equal and open Britain."

Lady Wilson, who always maintained a dignity above the political fray, was comforted at her London home by her family, who asked for her privacy to be respected.

### Crash driver 'was avoiding debris'

Police investigating the M4 coach crash in which 10 people died believe that the vehicle came off the motorway after swerving to avoid debris. Stephen Brown, the driver, said that he was trying to turn away from an object in the carriageway.

A preliminary investigation found no obvious mechanical or steering defects in the coach. *Eric's silence, page 3*

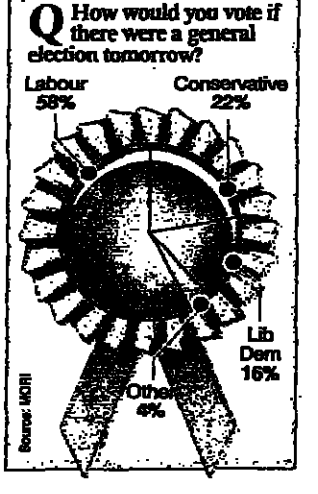
### ID card options

Michael Howard has outlined six options for a national identity card scheme. The Green Paper was criticised by civil liberties groups and the Labour Party but welcomed by the British Retail Consortium. *Page 11*

**Leading article, page 19**

## Poll support for Tories plunges to a record low

By Peter Riddell



TORY support has fallen to its lowest level after further internal rows and the party's rout in local elections, while Labour has built a commanding lead. The latest MORI poll for The Times comes on the eve of the by-election today in Perth and Kinross where the seat, held for the Tories for nearly 21 years by the late Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, is expected to be won by the Scottish Nationalists. Latest polls suggest that the Tories could come a poor third, behind Labour.

The poll, undertaken last weekend during the row over the Nolan report into standards in public life, shows the Tories stuck in a morass of unpopularity. After a slight pick-up in their rating during the spring, it has dropped from 26 to 22 per cent over the past month, equal to the party's record low rating in December. Labour has consolidated its position, increasing its rating from 56 to 58 per

cent over the past month. The Liberal Democrats have continued their recovery, rising from 15 to 16 per cent since April, compared with 13 per cent in March.

Only one in ten people is satisfied with the Government, while more than four-fifths are dissatisfied. Similarly, just a fifth approve of the way John Major is doing his job as Prime Minister.

Labour has been boosted by the Government's unpopularity and by Tony Blair's victory over Clause Four. The Liberal Democrats will be satisfied by Paddy Ashdown's strong personal rating, among the public and party supporters.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,869 adults at 146 ward sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on May 19 to 22. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (8 per cent) or refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

*MORI/The Times*

Peter Riddell, page 8

### The honey trap loses its sting

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

AMERICAN embassy officials in Moscow can now engage in "intimate or romantic relationships" with Russians without fear of falling into the honey trap.

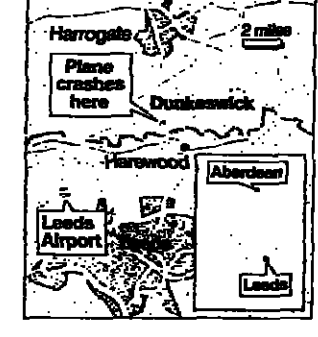
Six years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Thomas Pickering, the US Ambassador in Moscow, has told his staff that the former prohibition on sexual relations with "certain foreign nationals", including Russians, has been lifted.

The ban on romance, however, still applies only to the upper ranks. Marines, who guard the embassy, are forbidden to form liaisons with Russians and will have to direct their ardour, as in Cold War days, to Moscow's contingent of Western nannies. Diplomats will have to report their love affairs to security officers.

A British ban on romance with Russians was quietly eased a year ago.

## Nine die as light aircraft crashes in thunderstorm

By Bill Frost and Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent



NINE people were killed and three others were missing and feared dead last night after a twin-engine aircraft crashed near Leeds in a thunderstorm.

The 21-seat plane came down in a field beside the A61 at Dunsdale, West Yorkshire, minutes after taking off from Leeds airport. It is believed the pilot issued a Mayday call seconds earlier.

The Civil Aviation Authority said the plane was a Brazilian-built Embraer Bandeirante. A spokesman said it took off at 17.55 on route to Aberdeen with a crew of three and nine passengers.

Sharon Moore, deputy manager of the Harewood Arms Hotel, half a mile from the crash site near the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate, said: "We heard a loud bang, like a clap of thunder, but it turned out to be the plane coming down. There had been torrential rain and thunder and lightning in the

area for the previous three hours or so."

Sheila Pattison said the aircraft had crashed into a field near her home in Dunsdale. "Nobody saw anything because we have just had a very bad thunderstorm and it was extremely foggy. Yearden airport is close, so we get lots of aircraft flying over us, but the area is very rural," she said.

The A61 from Leeds to Harrogate was closed in both directions after the crash. An ambulance spokesman said wreckage was spread over a wide area and that rescuers had difficulty reaching the site because it was more than 600 yards from the nearest road, across fields. Janet Walter of West Yorkshire Ambulance Service said: "It is a scene of devastation."

The Embraer Bandeirante is known throughout the world as a workhorse of light commuter airlines. The first Bandeirante flew in 1972 and 500 were delivered to 80 operators in 36 countries before production stopped in 1990. The unpresurised twin-engine aircraft can fly more than 1,200 miles at a cruising speed of 257 miles an hour.

The aircraft is renowned for its safety but it would have reached a height of little more than 2,000 ft when it ran into difficulties, giving the pilot little time to correct the problem.

Flight NE 816 was a daily service operated by Nighair, an air taxi operator which has recently moved into the scheduled airline business with regular flights to many of Britain's biggest airports from Leeds.

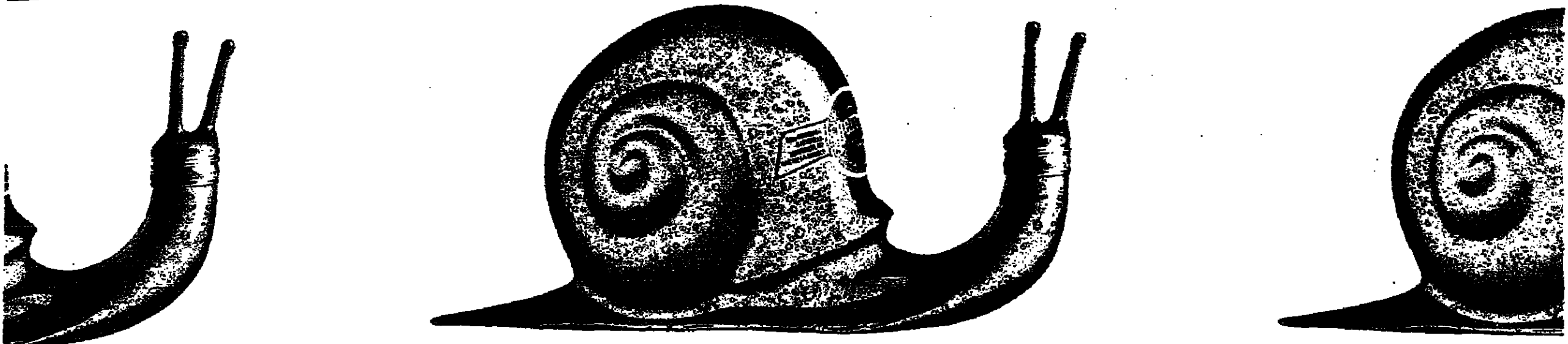
TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48

LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
LAW REPORT	33

ARTS	34-36
CHESS & BRIDGE	42
COURT & SOCIAL	20

BUSINESS	25-32
BODY AND MIND	17
ACCOUNTANCY	33

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# MPs pay tribute to a House of Commons man



Kaufman: memo from Wilson was giveaway

IN THE Lords, the shade of the late Harold Wilson must have felt yesterday like the stranger he always looked in that place. There was something perfunctory and a little awkward about peers' send-off for a nonconformist who enjoyed HP Sauce.

Not so the Commons to which, perhaps, Lord Wilson's shade repaired with relief at 3.30. The phrase "House of Commons man" can sound hollow, but when Sir Edward Heath used it to describe him, it was full of meaning. To listen to the Commons as they paid tribute was to sense what makes a British Parliament tick. Wilson made it tick, and as one MP after another recounted



**MATTHEW PARRIS**

**POLITICAL SKETCH**

anecdotes about him you sensed why he had been so successful in the Commons, and what it is about the place that television cannot really convey.

You could so easily imagine Wilson's presence there, chuckling at Gerald Kaufman told MPs that as a junior minister he had received a rare memo directly from Prime Minister Wilson, asking him to contact all living former premiers and extend to them the offer of a government car plus chauffeur for

the rest of their lives. "It was then," Mr Kaufman said, "that I first realised Harold Wilson had decided to resign."

MPs guffawed — but without disrespect. The club Harold Wilson has departed is cynical but warm, and secretly uncensorious. He would have savoured every crack.

Up in the Gallery, Mary Wilson, who had looked completely dejected, seemed moved by Sir Edward Heath's tributes; Tony Benn was the first to make her smile. With

her and her sons was Baroness Falkender — Marcia Williams — bleak-faced and blinking fast. Alone among the speeches of tribute, Mr Benn's mentioned Lady Falkender's loyalty, and the trust Harold Wilson had placed in her.

She will have enjoyed and understood, as her old boss would, the almost knockabout tributes. Only John Major was at all formal, but his was a well-crafted and moving speech. He allowed himself one slight change of tone when, praising Wilson's skills at holding his party together, the PM said that conciliation "is often scorned as an aptitude: but a necessary one".

Tony Blair, in a splendid

speech, permitted himself a discreet plug for New Labour when he regretted the way Wilson's plans to curb the powers of trades unions had been rejected by his party. Paddy Ashdown managed a statesmanlike dig in the ribs of both major parties when he remarked that "leading a divided party may at times look messy and manipulative". The Ulster Unionists' Jim Molyneux aimed a little below the ribs and told MPs: "There's nothing disreputable about that [the political fixer's art]: it's just that some of them are more successful than others." Mr Major buried his head in his hands in good-natured mock-despair.

Leaving office, Harold Wil-

son's reputation was cast into a shadow from which the clouds are only now, and in part, lifting. His tacking and weaving with a divided party and tiny minority were ridiculed, and people laughed at his classless ambitions and (as they thought) naïf taste. But with the benefit of hindsight his achievements look more real, the problems he faced are better understood, and some of his holding operations look little short of miraculous.

As John Major listened, smiling at times ruefully, to the tributes, was he anticipating some of the kindly judgments he too may receive, after it is too late? Lord Wilson would have enjoyed the irony.

## Vote on Nolan 'before recess'

The Government underlined its determination yesterday to make swift progress on the implementation of Lord Nolan's proposals on standards in public life by issuing a provisional timetable of action.

An interim report to be drawn up by a Commons committee, probably by early July, is expected to produce detailed proposals in time for MPs to vote before the summer recess. The timetable, agreed by Tony Newton, the Commons leader, and Ann Taylor, his Labour opposite number, means that most of Lord Nolan's recommendations, if backed by MPs, could be introduced by the end of the year.

## Mother arrested

Police investigating the murder of Rikki Neave, the six-year-old boy found on waste land near his Peterborough home, were questioning his mother, Ruth Neave, 26, last night. She was arrested in north London.

## Lottery winner

Norwich Playhouse, for which 167 fundraisers gambled and lost £50 each on the lottery, has become a winner. After the group bet £3,000 and won £1,500, the company yesterday received £400,000 from the Lottery Fund.

## Golfer's award

Derek Horton, 78, a retired bank manager, who was blinded in one eye by a golf ball struck during a golf match at the Maldon Golf Club, Essex, has won £24,000 damages after suing a clubmate Ronald Jackson.

## Home reprieved

The High Court has upheld a claim by William Beckwith, 76, that Wandsworth Council, London, acted unlawfully in deciding to close George Potter House in Battersea, where Mr Beckwith lives with 26 other elderly people.

## Bishops switch

Two retired Anglican bishops are to be ordained as Roman Catholic priests. The Right Rev Conrad Meyer, former Bishop of Dorchester, and the Right Rev Richard Ruff, former Bishop of Leicester, are both married.

## Thomas turns 50

The 50th birthday of the Rev Wilbert Awdry's creation, Thomas the Tank Engine, was celebrated at a party at the National Railway Museum in York. A five-month Thomas exhibition opens there tomorrow.

# Shepherd seeks to eradicate pockets of poor teaching

By JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

GILLIAN SHEPARD will announce a ten-point plan today to raise standards in state schools in a personal crusade to cut the level of unsatisfactory teaching reported by inspectors.

A package of measures costing more than £100 million will bring together a number of government agencies to focus on a range of struggling schools. But the Education Secretary wants tough new measures to tackle pockets of poor teaching throughout the state system.

Mrs Shepherd has been alarmed by persistent reports that at least a quarter of lessons are less than satisfactory. Inspections suggest that one in eight schools is close to failure, or already failing its pupils.

Today's initiative will embrace several moves to improve the new inspection regime under development by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), as well as the first projects planned by the Teacher Training Agency. Schools will be helped to bolster teachers' knowledge of their subject through in-service training, and new concepts of "school effectiveness" will be introduced to improve management.

Mrs Shepherd will publish an Ofsted report, based on the experience of 100 of the first schools to be inspected, to help schools to produce more effective action plans. It will recommend that head teachers and governors give greater priority to drawing up detailed strategies in response to inspection reports, which are often neither rigorous nor properly implemented. All schools will

have access to a new post-inspection fund, which will make £100 million available from a combination of Government grants and local authority budgets. Other less costly measures will make schools aware of existing good practice in other parts of the country.

Mrs Shepherd is anxious to reaffirm her reputation as pragmatic yet tough operator. She was criticised by Conservative backbenchers for "appeasing" teachers after she attended two union conferences over Easter which voted to ballot on strike action against large classes.

The Education Secretary is expected to confirm her willingness to send in Education Associations to run failing schools where action plans are judged inadequate. The threat of action has been sufficient to secure the necessary improvements in the first 50 failures.



Shepherd: crusade

but a "hit squad" of governors has been appointed at Stratford School, a grant-maintained school in East London, which is not eligible for management by one of the proposed associations.

Research published today questions the impact on standards of the Government's campaign for schools to become grant-maintained.

Ministers championed opting out as a way of freeing schools in deprived areas from local authority control. Yet Whitehall figures disclose that two out of three grant-maintained secondary schools have fewer children qualifying for free school meals than average for their area, indicating that they serve more affluent catchment areas.

In contrast, only 58 per cent of grant-maintained secondaries had a greater proportion of pupils gaining five GCSEs at good grades than average for their area. Martin Rogers, of the campaign group Local Schools Information, said the findings cast doubt on ministerial claims that opting out raised standards. Some 85 of the grant-maintained schools with a high proportion of children entitled to free meals did worse than average at GCSE, while only 26 did better than average.

The Rhondda-Powys prizes for science books, each worth £10,000, have been awarded to John Emley, author of *The Consumer's Good Chemical Guide*, and, in the children's category, to Jay Watts for *The Most Amazing Pop-Up Science Book*. The prizes were announced last night during a dinner at the Science Museum in London.



Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, emerging from talks with Senator Edward Kennedy in Washington yesterday

# Sinn Féin agrees to help resolve IRA kidnappings and murders

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government called on Sinn Féin yesterday to provide details about people who had disappeared during the IRA's terrorist campaign.

During his second round of talks with the party at Stormont, Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, said there was growing public concern about the fate of people whose bodies have never been recovered after they were apparently kidnapped and murdered by the IRA. Sinn Féin said it had been approached by relatives of the men, and the party had agreed to help.

There are at least five unresolved cases, the most famous being that of Captain Robert Nairac, who was abducted in

south Armagh in 1977 as he tried to gather intelligence on republicans.

Mr Ancram, who described yesterday's talks with Sinn Féin as full and frank, said he had extensive discussions on the decommissioning of IRA weapons with the party. He said: "We were able to explore the problems on both sides and we have agreed that we would take away the considerable detail with which we discussed this matter."

Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Féin delegation, said after the talks that he had criticised the Government for its "hesitant approach" to the peace process.

In Belfast, Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable

of the RUC, said that the IRA leadership was committed to the "peaceful road" and predicted that the republican and loyalist ceasefires would hold.

In an optimistic assessment, Sir Hugh also said that opposition within the IRA to its ceasefire had diminished in recent months. Speaking at the launch of his annual report, Sir Hugh conceded that the IRA remained intact but said that every day of peace made it more difficult for terrorists to return to violence.

The Government's stand on the decommissioning of IRA weapons was given added weight in Washington, where President Clinton, speaking on the eve of the meeting

between Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, told a news conference: "As long as he [Adams] continues to renounce terrorism and as long as they continue on the path they have set, including a willingness to talk about weapons decommissioning, then we are doing the right thing."

"We are supporting an end to terrorism and [the building of] peace and, I hope, prosperity."

The President organised a three-day Ireland investment forum opening last night at which Sir Patrick was due to hold a brief informal first meeting with Mr Adams.

## Firearms supply network cracked

By ROBIN YOUNG

SCOTLAND Yard claimed yesterday to have disrupted a major network of organised crime, with synchronised dawn raids at 26 addresses in London, Luton and Birmingham. Police made 18 arrests and another two people were detained later.

The raids, by 120 officers from the Metropolitan, Bedfordshire and West Midlands forces, came after an eight-month undercover operation codenamed Dodger, during which police recovered ten firearms, £1 million in stolen share certificates, three stolen cars, traveller's cheques and currency, and large numbers of stolen credit cards.

The firearms recovered included a customised Lee Enfield sniper's .303 rifle fitted with telescopic sights, and two Russian-made handguns fitted with silencers. Commander Roy Ramon, leader of the operation, said: "We believe we have disrupted a major organised crime firearms supply chain. They were acting as armours to gangs, supplying each other and other groups, but all their operations were linked in one big network."

Body armour capable of repelling bullets and knife attacks is to be issued by Scotland Yard to 17,500 front line officers as part of a package of protection measures agreed yesterday by Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The number of armed response vehicles in London will also be increased by a third.

## Minister attacks mortgage lenders

By NICHOLAS WOOD

PETER LILLEY accused leaders of the banks and building societies yesterday of trying to sabotage government plans to require mortgage-holders to have private insurance against the risk of losing their jobs.

The Social Security Secretary set the stage for an acrimonious meeting today with the Council of Mortgage Lenders by releasing the text of a letter accusing its director-general of running a "tendentious campaign" against the Government's plans.

From October the Social Security Department will no longer meet the first nine months of mortgage-interest payments for people who become unemployed. In his letter Mr Lilley challenged remarks made by Adrian Coles, the council's director-general, in which he said that mortgage-protection policies sold by insurance companies were not "really worth a great deal" and were difficult to claim against.

Mr Lilley said that a large proportion of such policies were sold by members of the council and he found it hard to believe that building societies were selling policies which they believed were of little value.

Mr Lilley told Christopher Sharp, chairman of the council: "I appreciate that Mr Coles intended to discredit the government proposals, but, as so often when people resort to distortions, he has simply succeeded in discrediting himself."

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WEEK



Not-guilty verdict lifts four-month cloud over Manchester United star's career

# Paul Ince cleared of assaulting football spectator

By RICHARD DUCE

PAUL INCE, the Manchester United and England footballer, was cleared yesterday of assaulting a spectator, lifting a four-month cloud over his future international career.

There were scenes of elation inside Croydon Magistrates' Court in south London as Ince, 27, hugged his wife Clare and then Andy Cole, his teammate and Britain's most expensive footballer, who earlier went into the witness box to support his colleague.

The magistrates effectively rejected the testimony of Dennis Warren, 46, a convicted football hooligan who had said that Ince punched him on the nose after the incident at Crystal Palace when Eric Cantona launched a flying kick at another spectator. The magistrates deliberated for 25 minutes before finding Ince not guilty of assault and a second charge of using threatening behaviour.

Michael Barnes, Chairman of the Bench, told Ince: "On the two charges before us we find you not guilty."

Cheering broke out in the public gallery as Ince, who has been capped 16 times for England, was cleared. Among them was Wolsey Jones, his father. Ince said in a statement



Ferguson praised Ince

through his solicitor that he was delighted with the outcome of his case. "The verdict was absolutely correct."

Earlier yesterday Ince was supported on the second day of his trial by some of the most well known names in football including Cole, his manager Alex Ferguson and Chris Armstrong, the Crystal Palace forward.

Mr Ferguson told the court he did not see Ince throw a punch or gesture to the crowd during the Cantona incident. Asked about Ince's disciplinary record, he said: "I think it's outstanding."

Jeffery McCann, cross-

examining for the prosecution, asked if a player would have to "push his luck" to reach 21 points. "Not in English football," Mr Ferguson replied.

There was laughter when Mr McCann asked Mr Ferguson: "Are you concerned about the result of the trial?" Mr Ferguson replied: "There's no result yet, is there?" Mr McCann said: "One way or the other, there will be. We don't have draws in this profession. You've lost Cantona for a while, if the result of this trial goes against him, Mr Ince's position must surely be in jeopardy?"

Mr Ferguson said: "I don't think so." Mr McCann suggested that Mr Ferguson's evidence was coloured by just that, and that he was gilding the lily in Ince's favour. Mr Ferguson again said: "I don't think so," adding that Ince's contribution to the club was very, very positive. He said Ince did have "a short fuse", but it showed itself in dissent, not in any physical form.

Earlier, he said that Ince, after an unsettled start as a young player going to a big club, developed into "a fantastic footballer for us, and a very, very big influence on the club". He took over as skipper when Steve Bruce, club cap-



Paul Ince leaving court with his wife Clare yesterday. He said that the verdict was absolutely correct

tain, was unavailable. "We don't give that job away very easily, it's got to be earned, and I think over the last few years, Paul has earned it."

There was laughter when Mr Ferguson went to sit down as he first took the witness box and Mr Barnes told him: "Remain standing please, unless there's anything particularly wrong with you." Mr Brandman said: "Apart

from having just lost the FA Cup and the Premiership..." Mr Barnes added: "Well, you said that, not me."

Ince had earlier admitted in court to rushing over to the scene where Cantona had just kicked the Crystal Palace supporter Matthew Simmons, 20. He saw his colleague on the floor and originally thought it was he who had been attacked. Under cross-examina-

tion from Mr McCann, Ince agreed that if his version of events was to be believed then Mr Warren had punched himself. Ince accepted he was an aggressive player but denied he had a short fuse on the pitch. In his six-year career with Manchester United, some 300 games, he had been sent off once and only twice suspended from playing.

Both Cole and Armstrong gave evidence to say they also ran to the touchline after the Cantona incident. Both players said at no stage did they see Ince punch anyone.

After the hearing Steve Kutner, the agent for Ince, who was under contract to a Sunday newspaper, said: "He is very glad to be back in the England squad. He now wants to go home and see his son Thomas."

Both Cole and Armstrong gave evidence to say they also ran to the touchline after the Cantona incident. Both players said at no stage did they see Ince punch anyone.

## Woman spent 3 years on run

A woman who led two elderly sisters on a three-year tour of Britain, allegedly leaving a trail of unpaid bills, appeared before magistrates in Lymington, Hampshire, yesterday on three charges of criminal deception. Angela Dodge, 53, who was arrested in Peterborough on Tuesday after her photograph was shown on television, was remanded in custody. The sisters, Joan Payne, 74, and Winifred Bristow, 76, who left their Sussex home in May 1992 saying they were going for a three-day holiday, were found in January in a rented cottage near Bury St Edmunds.

## Hillwalker dies

A German hillwalker was found dead on Ben Nevis yesterday. Cordula Adolf, 19, who was climbing a tourist path to the summit alone, suffered fatal injuries, apparently in a fall. She was reported overdue on Monday.

## Girl improves

The ten-year-old leukemia victim known as Girl B, who underwent privately funded chemotherapy after the NHS denied her further treatment, is back at her school in Suffolk. Today she is on a school trip to France.

## Pools cheat

A pools collector who cheated a syndicate out of a £200,000 win has been jailed for 18 months. Christopher Adams, 44, from Worcester, stole the £19 stake money from 18 factory workers but threw away the winning coupon.

## Bias rejected

A tribunal rejected a claim by Lesley Jourdan, 30, of Doncaster, that she suffered sexual discrimination when she was sacked by a firm run by members of the Plymouth Brethren after announcing that she was to marry.

## Fatal accident

A police motorcycle died yesterday when his machine crashed into a tractor and trailer at Brackley, Northamptonshire, on a police motorcycle training course. The 35-year-old father of two was based at Newbury, Berkshire.

## Violin found

An 18th-century Gagliano violin stolen from a car in Durham City two months ago has been recovered by police. They found the £96,000 violin in a house in Sunderland. A man has been charged with handling stolen goods.

## Boy charged

A boy aged 14 has been charged with the murder of Ashley Stevens, also 14, who died after an alleged fight in a playground in Cowbridge, South Glamorgan. The youth was granted conditional bail at Barry juvenile court.

## Spot of bother

Several viewers complained to Channel 4 after it screened scenes of mating ladybirds before the 9pm watershed. *Squawkie Talkie* showed the beetles in the throes of passion to the tune of *Je t'aime, moi non plus*.

## Shoplifter given life for murder of man who chased him

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGER shouted at a judge yesterday when he was jailed for life for stabbing to death a store manager who tackled him after he was caught shoplifting. Carl Hughes, 19, yelled "Dickhead" as Mr Justice Kay ordered him to be taken from the dock at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court.

Hughes had been found guilty of murdering Duncan Clarke, 34, who had tried to stop him from running into an elderly woman as he fled from a Littlewoods store in Cardiff.

The jury had been told there was no dispute that Hughes killed Mr Clarke, but he denied murder and claimed his victim's death was manslaughter.

Sentencing Hughes, the judge told him: "The man you killed, Duncan Clarke, was decent and courageous and public-spirited. You are none of those things. It's quite clear to me having read about your history that you are a vicious young thug and on that day you became a ruthless killer."

"It is my impression that anybody who gets in your way is in consider-

able danger. The public will need to be protected from you for a very long time."

The court was told that Hughes, from Penrhys, Mid Glamorgan, had a history of violent crime and had been in prison shortly before he killed Mr Clarke, from Canton, Cardiff. He was serving 15 months' youth custody for a series of offences that included pulling a knife and threatening a police officer after being confronted on suspicion of shoplifting. The court was told that Hughes had been in council care since the age of five and had never

had a job. He gave no evidence in his defence.

Outside the courtroom, the shopper saved by Mr Clarke told Maureen, his mother: "Your boy sacrificed his life for me. I'll never forget Duncan as long as I live. There's hardly a moment goes by that I don't think about his heroism."

Carole Gardner, a former nurse from Tylorstown, Mid Glamorgan, said: "I was standing at the top of an escalator when I saw the youth running up it. He was totally out of control and making scything mo-

tions with a knife and stared straight into my eyes. Suddenly I was pushed aside out of his path a split-second before he reached me. I was swung around by the force of the push and when I recovered I saw Mr Clarke lying on the floor with blood pouring out of him."

"I had to meet Mrs Clarke to tell her about her son's bravery, and thank her from the bottom of my heart."

Mrs Clarke, 59, said: "Her words have comforted me a great deal. Nothing can bring Duncan back again but I'm glad his death wasn't in vain."



Hughes shouted at the judge

## Worshippers prefer ancient to modern in hymn parade

By RUTH GLEDHILL

TRADITIONAL hymns still top the list of church favourites, according to a survey published yesterday. In a poll of more than 8,500 BBC Radio 4 listeners, seven out of the top ten hymns were traditional. Two were evangelical hymns from the 19th and 18th centuries and only one was a modern, evangelical hymn of the kind being embraced by increasing numbers of churches in Britain.

Three, such as *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*, were hymns that are especially popular for weddings and funerals.

The voters were asked to submit a choice of three hymns in order of preference. Top of the list was *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, which gained more than a quarter of the votes cast, putting it way ahead of the second favourite, *The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended*. Squeezing in at No 10 was *Shine Jesus Shine*, the modern worship song by Graham Kendrick.

The poll will be welcomed by traditionalist supporters of the Ancient & Modern

- 1 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
- 2 The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended
- 3 How Great Thou Art
- 4 Abide With Me
- 5 Guide Me o Thou Great Redeemer
- 6 Great is Thy Faithfulness
- 7 Praise my Soul the King of Heaven
- 8 Love Divine All Loves Excelling
- 9 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- 10 Shine Jesus Shine

hymnbook, who complain of falling standards in church music, where guitars and tambourines have replaced the organ and the poetry of classical hymns has been abandoned for the repetitive choruses of worship songs.

Church music experts also said the poll was proof of the continuing importance of music in church worship and a sign that the days when clergy included hymns in services simply to keep their

congregations happy were drawing to a close.

Harry Bramma, director of the Royal School of Church Music, said people still preferred the older hymns because "some of the words are very good, really quite classical". Some were "good poetry and good theology, and strike notes in people's hearts".

Mr Bramma said: "I think the Church is becoming much more aware of the importance of music as a means of human communication."

"Music is part of human life. It is a way of communicating people have always gone in for. The Church has been singing since the time of Jesus, and it is beginning to realise that it has been right to do so."

□ The top ten hymns will be performed by massed choirs from around the country this Sunday at Birmingham Town Hall for a programme, *With One Voice*, to be broadcast at 10.15pm on that day. The concert, conducted by Sir David Willcocks, is part of Music Live 95, BBC Radio's five-day festival of live music from the city, which starts today.

## Teenager killed friends in crash

By A STAFF REPORTER

FOUR teenage friends drowned after an inexperienced driver high on drink and drugs lost control of his speeding car and ploughed into an icy canal, an inquest was told yesterday.

Richard Wheeler, 18, a factory worker from Banbury, Oxfordshire, had drunk several pints of lager and swallowed amphetamines before getting behind the wheel of his car a week after passing his driving test. After daring a friend to race him, he picked up four teenage girls outside a nightclub and they began smoking cannabis in the car.

Mr Wheeler, who was twice the legal drink-driving limit, lost control of the Ford Escort Ghia as he drove towards a hump-backed bridge on a country road at King's Sutton, near Banbury, early on February 19. The car struck the parapet and somersaulted, landing upside down in 4ft of water. Mr Wheeler and his front-seat passenger, Carmen Maguire, 17, died after being trapped in the car by their seatbelts.

Mia Sablin, 16, and Fiona Caine, 15, drowned after being thrown through the rear win-

dow. Katrina Josephs, now 16, survived after scrambling on top of the overturned car.

Miss Josephs, of Banbury, who suffered head, leg and internal injuries, told the inquest that she tried to rescue Miss Maguire. "I tried to pull Carmen out and she said she couldn't because she was stuck by her seatbelt. I jumped off the car on to the bank. I remember sitting on the bridge until a man came." She spent 90 minutes at the roadside until her cries were heard by George Jewison, a narrowboat owner.

Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxfordshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mr Wheeler and open verdicts on the three girls. He said unlawful killing would have been more appropriate but there was a lack of evidence.

After the hearing the bereaved families refused to comment, but Miss Josephs' father Steve, 38, said: "I don't blame Richard for what happened. We can say he was responsible because he was driving and had taken drugs, but everyone got into the car. They did something very rash and foolish."

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Join our Campaigners' Club.





'One minute I was sitting chatting with friends. Suddenly everything turned to chaos'

# Survivors tell of eerie silence in coach crash

By Lin Jenkins

AS THE Royal British Legion mourned its dead in Christchurch yesterday, survivors recalled their desperate attempts to save the lives of friends amid the carnage and eerie silence that followed the M4 coach crash.

Alan Martin, a Territorial Army volunteer reserve, and Michael Allen, sports secretary of the legion branch, were the first to struggle out. Mr Martin, 43, described the sight of bodies inside the twisted wreckage as he fought waist-deep in oily water to help those who had survived.

"There was terrible carnage," he said. "We went round to the front of the coach and round the sides to assist wherever possible. Michael at that stage was up to his waist in water. We had run into a drain. Engine oil was pouring into the water and it was an horrendous mess, but we did manage to get a very elderly couple out."

The rescue services arrived within minutes and Mr Martin, who is married and lives in Christchurch, continued to help, despite back injuries and bruising for which he was treated later. "We could see clearly two people were trapped and they needed to be released."

"One of the rescue chaps got inside and our secretary, Fred Cousins, was unable to breathe. We got the bottle of



Alan Martin helped others out of the wreckage

oxygen into him. There was a sort of mêlée. Everyone was working together. We just saw the folks out and that was it."

Mr Martin, a member of the Legion for 25 years, said that the trip to a brewery in Cardiff had been a friendly affair and he was settling down to doze on the return journey. "The next thing that occurred to me was that the coach started bumping very seriously. Immediately I opened my eyes and could not see a great deal, but it did seem as if everything was turning round."

"I seem to remember grabbing hold of the underside of the seat. The next thing, everything turned over and all we could hear was the sloshing of broken glass." As the coach slewed to a halt on its roof there was silence and

Mr Martin, having been thrown across the coach, spotted an 18in gap that had been a window frame, through which he and Mr Allen clambered.

"We managed to get three people out," he said of the initial stage. "There was only 1ft or 2ft to manipulate them out. We did that as carefully as possible."

Tom Park, a 76-year-old grandfather, was one of the first to be dragged from the wreckage by Mr Martin. The former Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, who needed scores of stitches, shook with pain as he recalled the crash.

"It was absolute bedlam," he said. "One minute I was sitting in the middle of the coach chatting with friends after a very pleasant day out.

The sun was shining and everyone was in good spirits. It all happened so quickly. All I remember is the coach turning upside down and it seemed to go into a full spin."

Mr Park, a widower from Christchurch, who spent five years in a prisoner-of-war camp, added: "Suddenly everything turned to chaos. There was broken glass and twisted metal everywhere. I finished up lying on the side of the coach, which was all squashed. I was facing downwards."

"I wasn't covered in oil or water like other passengers were. I was trapped upside down in my seat and I could hardly move because the seat behind me had collapsed. I was in a lot of pain. I was upset but still conscious. I could see people all around me but I couldn't see if they were injured."

There was a hush. No one was screaming or shouting. There was just absolute silence. I remember trying to crawl towards the window and when I was halfway through the gap I was pulled out by Alan Martin, who must have scrambled free.

"God knows how I got out because I had to squeeze through a hole between the window frame and the roof, which was only about a foot or so across."

Advice to motorists, page 1  
Letters, page 19



A police diver recovering a pair of spectacles from the crash scene yesterday

## Driver killed tidying M-way

By A Staff Reporter

A PSYCHOLOGIST at a leading business school was killed as he tried to drag a lorry tyre off a motorway, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Anthony Jackson, 50, had run over the tyre at night, damaging his BMW's head-lights. As he tried to drag the hefty obstacle from the M40 near Ardley, Oxfordshire, he was hit by a car and died from multiple injuries.

Dr Jackson, a lecturer at the Cranfield School of Management in Bedfordshire, had telephoned his brother Terry from his BMW and told him he had hit something.

Terry Jackson, of Paignton, Devon, told the inquest at Oxford Coroner's Court: "He spoke to me for about two minutes and then briefly to my wife." He said his brother, from Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, said he was going to pull over to examine his car because he had hit something and had lost the use of his lights.

The next telephone call was from his brother's wife Barbara to say that police had telephoned her to say her husband had been in an accident.

Walter Holmes, from Hayes, west London, told the inquest that he hit Dr Jackson in his white Ford Orion car despite trying to avoid him.

He said: "I spotted something in my headlights. It seemed to be a figure in dark clothing. I swerved to the left but the person went to the middle of the carriageway. I caught him with the front wing."

Mr Holmes said there were several other cars on the road that had hit the tyre. Sergeant Michael Saunders, an accident investigation officer, said that Dr Jackson had probably underestimated the weight of the tyre and also the speed of the oncoming Ford Orion.

Nicholas Gardiner, the Coroner, recording a verdict of accidental death, described Dr Jackson's actions as "foolish but selfless".

## Doctor blames 'flimsy' roof for passengers' injuries

By Jonathan Prynne and Kathryn Knight

A SENIOR hospital consultant who treated victims of the Bristol coach tragedy called for an urgent review of coach safety yesterday because of the severity of the injuries suffered in the accident.

Christian Oakland, accident and emergency consultant at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, which admitted seven of the injured, said that the way the coach roof had caved in had contributed significantly to the patients' injuries. "The bottom of the bus is rigid but the top is flimsy. Most of the serious injuries to the head and chest resulted from the

coach rolling over and them being squashed from above."

His comments added to growing pressure on the Government to regulate further the thousands of small tour companies that operate ageing coaches on Britain's roads. There are about 40,000 coaches in Britain, with an average age of 12 years, which are operated by more than 7,000 firms. The accident has focused attention on the ease with which operators can set up in business, often using coaches from the mid-1970s. Mike Bartlett, spokesman for the 1,200 member

Confederation of Passenger Transport, said: "There are one-man bands who are giving the coach industry a bad name. We want efficient and well-meaning operators, not cowboys."

While there is no suggestion that Laguna, the Bournemouth firm that operated the coach in Tuesday's crash, failed to meet safety standards, one of its larger local rivals said that government vehicle inspectors were struggling to keep up with the burgeoning number of operators. Roy Edgley, finance manager of Yellow Coaches, Bournemouth's biggest operator, said: "It's all down to the way the

Government dealt with deregulation. They have more or less said 'do what you like'. All you have to do is register a route and run it. I don't believe a few inspectors have the capacity to deal with the vast number of small operators running one or two vehicles."

Neil Beresford, managing director of Plaxtons, Britain's last coach manufacturer, said it could be many years before all vehicles complied with recent regulations because of the slow replacement rate. New coaches, which cost between £100,000 and £200,000, are built to last for 15 to 20 years, compared with only eight years for

cars. Small operators are often reluctant to replace coaches more often because of the cost.

Observers say that the accident is likely to lead to an acceleration of the replacement of Britain's coach fleet, as passengers increasingly refuse to travel on coaches without up-to-date safety features. Although European Union legislation requiring seatbelts to be fitted has still not been passed, most coaches built since last year have included lap belts as a standard feature. Coaches built since 1993 have also conformed to European Union regulations on roof-crush resistance.

The main operators said yesterday they would be happy to conform with any new government or European Union rules requiring seatbelts in new coaches but would be reluctant to fit them retrospectively at a cost of up to £40 million.

Fitting seat belts to pre-1983 coaches could increase the risk of injury because the seats were not designed to withstand the force of a seat with a passenger strapped in being flung forward in a crash. "If the coach stops suddenly and seat mounting breaks you have the possibility of seats flying around inside the coach with people attached," said Mike Morgan, editor of *Coach and Bus Week*.

## No private medical insurance? If your family falls ill it's you who'll feel sick.

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Baggy House at Croyde: reminiscent of Le Corbusier

## Low-cost housing wins high praise

By Marcus Binney, Architecture Correspondent

THE joint winners of the Building of the Year award are a superb modern house at Croyde, Devon, and low-cost housing near Waterloo station in London.

One of the judges, the architect Eldred Evans, said: "It's the rich and the poor. The Coin Street Community Housing shows we can build proper houses in urban areas rather than high-rise flats. Each three-storey house has a ground-floor room which can be used for a granny with an ample store for prams and bikes. There are two rooms on each floor and under the eaves there is extra bunk space for kids."

Ian Tuckett of Coin Street community builders said: "Our priority is for people working in low-paid employment in central London."

The Housing Corporation paid the £12.5 million cost

and the architects were Lifschutz Davidson.

Baggy House at Croyde was designed by Anthony Hudson. Its highly sculptured form and the random pattern of windows have a touch of late Le Corbusier about them. The solid form contrasts with the hi-tech transparency of many more expensive modern houses.

The Building of the Year award is made jointly by the Royal Fine Art Commission and *The Sunday Times*. There were also three specialist winners: the Channel 4 TV headquarters by the Richard Rogers Partnership and the Sunderland Business School by the Building Design Partnership, representing the media and the universities, and an award for the best *Jes d'esprit* went to the barometric fountain tower in Holland Park, west London.



Coin Street: cheap homes for inner-city workers

## Hope for lost Briton

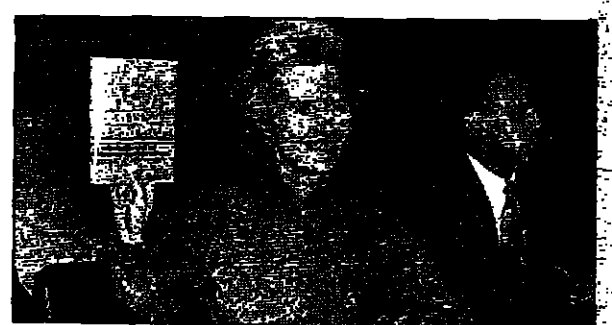
THE discovery of two pages of a passport and other items in a jungle river have raised hopes that a Briton missing in Indonesia for more than two months may still be alive, trapped in a mountain gully.

Darren Roper, 24, of Bognor Regis, West Sussex, went missing after setting off to climb a mountain in

western Sumatra on March 19. Yesterday his father Bill, 61, said that the passport pages had been found washed down the gully with his first aid tin, some local money and his waterproof belt.

The belongings were found after 30 days by a search party. It will now concentrate on the steep gully.

## THE TIMES An evening with Baroness Thatcher



To mark the publication of her second volume of memoirs, *The Path to Power*, *The Times*, in co-operation with Dillons, invites readers to an evening with Lady Thatcher. Following the success of her first *Times/Dillons* forum, when she spoke about *The Downing Street Years*, Lady Thatcher will now turn her attention to the years leading up to her premiership. She will discuss her childhood in Grantham, the profound influence of her father, her marriage to Denis, her early career as a politician and her determined rise to power. She will also give characteristically forthright opinions on some of the century's leading political figures. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and will offer those attending the opportunity to question Lady Thatcher.

The forum will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 13 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each (concessions, £7.50) and are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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# 'chaos'

## Driver killed dying 1-way

(STAFF REPORTER)

**HOLOGIST** at a head-  
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## ES with tcher



SLEAU LUNCH





Mary Wilson and Marcia Falkender — two contrasting figures in the rise of the Labour leader

## Wife and secretary devoted their lives to serving Wilson

By ANTHONY HOWARD

THERE were two strong women in Harold Wilson's life — his wife Mary and his long-serving personal secretary Marcia Falkender. They were very different figures but, in a strange way, entirely complementary: the one wholly apolitical and the other totally dedicated to the life of politics. Yet they got on remarkably well until the long twilight of the former Prime Minister's life they became, in effect, the twin centurions of his praetorian guard.

Like Wilson himself, neither had any "side". In his latter years at No 10 a dinner was once given at the Garrick Club for Mary Wilson to celebrate the publication of one of her volumes of poems. It was a horribly wet night and, as the occasion broke up, it became clear that no arrangements had been made for the Prime Minister's wife to get home. "Please don't worry," she said, "I'll get a taxi," and that, presumably with all the resources of the Whitehall car pool open to her, was what she insisted on doing.

It cannot have been easy for her to carve out a niche independent of her husband's public career but throughout their days first in Hampstead

### THE WOMEN

Garden Suburb, then in No 10 and finally in Lord North Street that was what Mary Wilson succeeded in achieving. Probably it could not have been done without the support of the other woman in Wilson's life — Marcia Williams, as she then was, the secretary who first went to work for him in 1956 and who stayed with him through all his subsequent political struggles (she

tributes.....1  
Matthew Parris.....2  
Peter Riddell.....3  
Thomas Stafforff.....17  
William Rees Mogg.....18  
Gerald Kaufman.....18  
Diary.....18  
Leading article.....19  
Obituary.....21

was still dealing with his correspondence at the time of his death).

If Mary Wilson was shy and self-effacing, even her friends and admirers could scarcely say the same about Lady Falkender (as she became in 1974). She may have dreaded the limelight but in private she was always a force. Perhaps because she was a woman, she

tended to provoke strong feelings even behind the green baize door separating No 10 from the Cabinet Office.

The Civil Service never liked her and tried to make her job difficult: she replied in kind by talking, perhaps too openly, about "the twin set and pearls girls" in the Garden Room. But to politicians normally as far apart as Barbara Castle and Roy Jenkins there was never any doubt that she represented a powerful influence — and one entirely for good — upon the Prime Minister. She was equally fortunate in her choice of enemies. Someone who incurs the antagonism of George Wigg, Joe Haines and Arnold Goodman must be able to claim to have been doing something right.

And, in fact, because she had political instincts every bit as shrewd as those of her boss, she did a lot. Her finest hour probably belonged to the period in which Wilson served as Leader of the Opposition before becoming Prime Minister for the first time in October 1964.

In public it was Wilson's electoral victory but in reality it was almost equally hers. Running the whole operation on a shoe-string — this was long before the days of "the Short money", let alone of any



Marcia Williams, as she then was, talks on the phone next to Mary Wilson as the Labour leader is interviewed in 1964 in a Southampton hotel

businessmen's slush fund — and deliberately boycotting party headquarters, which they regarded as incurably set in antediluvian ways — she and Wilson planned and organised the whole campaign together. It was an astonishing joint achievement and one in the more sophisticated climate of today's politics that is unlikely to be repeated.

It was also, to his credit, something that Wilson always remembered. Even in the most stressful, turbulent days in No

10 (at least some of them provoked by her) when his own immediate entourage sometimes seemed split into two rival encampments, he never forgot the debt he owed to his personal and political secretary. If she served him with total devotion, he protected her with an almost equal dedication. It was entirely typical of him that when "the slag heaps affair" broke over her head (and that of her brother, Tony Field) in the spring of 1974, his response should have been to offer two

fingers to the newspapers by creating her a life peer.

Perhaps in retrospect that was a mistake. Lady Falkender, who can be much more insecure than she may sometimes appear, has yet to make her maiden speech in the House of Lords. There is also very little doubt that this defiant action of Wilson's played its part two years later in fuelling the row over the so-called "lavender honours list", which did the departing Prime Minister's reputation so much damage. Yet, in both cases,

good old-fashioned English snobbery was at least an element in the stiffer expressions of outrage.

Stuffy was the one label which could never be attached to Wilson or to the two women who in their separate ways served his purposes. It was only because his wife constantly maintained a secure home base for him and their two sons — even in the flat above No 10 which she hated and refused to move back to in 1974 — that he was able to lead the totally politically dominated

life that he did. And it is even possible to wonder whether without Marcia Falkender loyalty at his side he would have been able to summon up the drive and energy that eventually brought him first the leadership of his party and then of the nation. As she herself once said: "I did keep him going in difficult times." But then so did Mary Wilson by uncompromisingly enduring a life which, even in her husband's heyday, she would never have chosen for herself.

## Machiavellian reputation thickened fog surrounding decision to quit

By NICHOLAS WOOD

### THE RESIGNATION

HAROLD WILSON'S resignation on March 16, 1976, a few days after his sixtieth birthday, stunned the nation and his Cabinet.

Peter Shore, his closest ministerial confidant, was taken unawares. Denis Healey learnt of the Prime Minister's intentions only minutes before the bombshell while standing beside him in the Downing Street lavatory. Other leading figures confessed that they were equally flabbergasted by the outcome of what they had expected would be a routine Cabinet meeting.

They could not understand why a man who had lived for politics

should suddenly relinquish power when still relatively young and in command of his faculties. Wilson's relish for intrigue and his reputation for deviousness only thickened the fog of suspicion that rapidly descended over his announcement.

To this day, an air of mystery hangs over the circumstances of possibly the most dramatic political resignation this century. Stanley Baldwin was the only other prime minister to go at a time of his own choosing, and he was 69 and in poor health.

It has been suggested that a

shadowy group from MI5 forced him out, threatening to expose him in some dreadful scandal unless he agreed to step aside quietly. Wilson himself fuelled such speculation, putting it about in his final years in Downing Street that he was a victim of a shadowy plot by either MI5 or Boss, the South African secret service, to destabilise him.

Despite the claims of Peter Wright, a former MI5 officer, in *Spycatcher* of a security service plot against Wilson involving 30 agents, the evidence looks flimsy. The suspicion that by the time of

his departure Wilson was suffering from a serious illness also lingers. Although he was drinking quite heavily by then and could not face the Commons or an important meeting without a glass or two of brandy, his physical and mental decline really dates from 1980 when he underwent a series of operations for cancer of the bowel. He was never the same man again.

Historians and biographers are increasingly inclined to accept the reasons Wilson gave at the time for his departure. In his statement to the Cabinet, he cited several reasons for his resignation.

On his return to Downing Street in March 1974 he had made

a firm decision not to stay in power for longer than another two years. He told Marcia Williams and a few other close associates, but they tended to disbelieve him or think that they would be able to dissuade him.

As *The Times* reported at the time and as Philip Ziegler, his biographer, records, he had told the Queen of his intentions several months earlier. James Callaghan, the man whom Wilson wanted as his successor, had also been tipped off in advance. But, in a typical Wilson touch, others such as Harold Lever, who caught wind of his plans, were deliberately put off the scent.

Wilson had been leader of the

Labour Party for more than 13 years and had broken Asquith's record for prime ministerial longevity; he did not want to stand in the way of others in what he grandly described as the most talented Cabinet this century; and he recognised the danger after so long in power of becoming stale and lacking the flexibility to cope with the challenges of office.

Added to that, he was growing weary of the political grind, the atmosphere in his kitchen cabinet was becoming increasingly poisonous and he was becoming fearful that Labour would lose the next election. As Ziegler says: "It did happen, and exactly as Wilson said it would."

## Rebel regime that signified failure Open University is greatest legacy

By PHILIP WEBSTER

By JOHN O'LEARY

RHODESIA, and its rebellion against the British Crown, plagued Harold Wilson throughout his terms as Prime Minister. Yet Ian Smith, the man who made the Unilateral Declaration of Independence and was involved in a series of dramatic negotiating encounters with him, spoke warmly of his old adversary yesterday.

"We got on surprisingly well. I found him straightforward and honest," he said. The storm was brewing when Wilson came to office in 1964. But a solution evaded him, and successive governments, until the Thatcher administration of 1979.

Wilson warned Smith that UDI would mean an end to economic relations with Britain and that the rebel regime would not be recognised. Smith reluctantly flew to London in October 1965 but he refused to accept any of Wilson's five principles. UDI was then inevitable. Wilson ignored Cabinet advice and went to Salisbury to try to

avert the inevitable. He was scornfully dismissed and on November 11, 1965, Smith issued a Proclamation of Independence, the first rebellion by a British dependency since the 18th century. As Smith's position appeared to strengthen Wilson was ready to make concessions.

They met again on HMS *Fearless*, also off Gibraltar. Smith rejected a package that many of Wilson's colleagues

SOME of the key changes that shaped the present education system date from the Wilson years. But none can compare with the creation of the Open University, which was his personal pride and joy.

A grammar school boy who became an Oxford don, Harold Wilson saw education as a ladder of opportunity for young people. Opening up access to higher education, in particular, was also an essential element in his crusade to harness the "white heat of technology".

Through the establishment of campus universities such as Sussex, Warwick and Lancaster, and later the polytechnics, Wilson's first government laid the foundations for the recent expansion of higher education. The so-called "plate glass universities" had been proposed by Lord Robbins before Labour came to power, but Wilson's government provided the resources to make them a reality.

Labour's attempts to dis-

mantle the grammar school network, and the subsequent abolition of the direct grant system in independent schools, also stemmed from a belief that equality of opportunity was more important than individual excellence. In fact, local resistance meant that even by 1970 fewer than a third of pupils went to comprehensive schools.

However, it is the Open University with its corres-

pondence courses that will assure Harold Wilson a place in educational history. The model he claimed as his own brainchild has been copied in many countries. Based in Milton Keynes, the OU flourished beyond the dreams of its first supporters. Places were in such demand that, by the start of this decade, it was planning for more than 100,000 students and spreading to the Continent.



Faces of the 1960s: Harold Wilson with The Beatles in 1964, the year in which he first became Prime Minister

## Beer and sandwiches lose their appeal

By PHILIP BASSETT

BEER and sandwiches, like "a week is a long time in politics" and "the pound in your pocket", is a phrase resonant of the Wilson era. But as a way of running the economy, trade union leaders trooping in and out of 10 Downing Street is now as decreed by the Labour Party as it is by the Conservative Government.

The corporatist way of running the country — implying

that government was not only better with union involvement, but in effect impossible without it — was central to the Labour Governments of the 1960s and 1970s. Though Harold Wilson involved the unions in a series of price and incomes policies in the mid-1960s, he took a tough stand against them during the 1966 seamen's strike. Attacking their leaders as a "tightly knit group of politically motivated men", he stood up to the

### THE UNIONS

strikers despite having to declare a state of emergency.

But on his return to power in 1974, elected because the public believed that only Labour could handle the unions, he revived their role in economic management through the Social Contract, by which they agreed to pay restraint in return for pro-union legislation, some of which survives in

spite of the Conservatives' reshaping of employment law.

However, there is likely to be little room for the trade unions in a Labour government under Tony Blair. Mr Blair paid tribute yesterday to Lord Wilson's work with the unions but underlined his view of its lack of success when he said: "If he was unable to penetrate the old-fashioned attitudes of unions and management, it wasn't for want of trying."

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'He was a man who served his country well and honourably and earned a secure place in its history'

## Westminster unites to praise Labour's political champion

By JAMES LANDALE AND ALICE THOMSON

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair led a series of moving tributes to Lord Wilson of Rievaulx yesterday as former colleagues and friends in both Houses of Parliament praised the former Labour leader.

The Prime Minister told a packed Commons that Lord Wilson was one of the most brilliant men of his generation. "History will remember him for the sharpness and shrewdness of his mind, for his two periods as Prime Minister in difficult circumstances, for his energy and his enthusiasm as well as for his very many achievements."

As Lady Wilson and Lady Falkender, Lord Wilson's private and political secretary, and other family members looked on from the gallery, Mr Major said: "His friends who knew him well spoke of his great personal kindnesses and generosity. He expected loyalty from those around him and he offered it in full measure in return."

### NOTES

Lord Wilson was "a complex, clever man, who could be bruised and hurt and who never wore the armadillo-skin of the fictional politician". Above all, he was "a very human man who served his country well and honourably and has earned a secure place in its history."

Tony Blair said: "Harold Wilson was to politics what The Beatles were to popular culture. He dominated the nation's political landscape and personified the new era: not stuffy or hidebound but classless, forward-looking, modern. It was an age for meritocracy, for sweeping away the old and ringing in the new. Harold Wilson captured it."

Mr Blair said that Lord Wilson was the only party leader to have won four elections this century. "It

is hardly surprising succeeding Labour leaders look on him with envy and admiration."

Mr Blair joined Mr Major in paying tribute to Lady Wilson for the care and comfort she bestowed on her husband during his time in office and during his last years.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "This is a sad day for the House, it's a sad day for our country. But in particular our thoughts and our prayers must be with his family."

Sir Edward Heath, Father of the House, recalled that he and Lord Wilson were together for more than ten years as leaders of their parties.

"I like to think that we were constrained, we were not abusing each other, we were not trying to get cheap results from each other," he said he had had many problems to tackle, including Europe. "Perhaps my greatest regret is that we were never able to come to an



agreement about that key policy issue."

James Moynihan, the Ulster Unionist leader, praised Lord Wilson's humour. "This morning some commentators have been rather less than fair in implying that Lord Wilson had only one guiding principle, namely that of

keeping the party together and keeping them united." As MPs laughed, Mr Moynihan said: "There is nothing disreputable about that objective."

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, said she wished to make only one point. "In my view, one of Harold Wilson's lasting achievements was

to bring into being the Open University, of which I have the honour to be the current Chancellor."

Gerald Kaufman said that one day Lord Wilson asked him to get in touch with all former prime ministers to offer them a car and chauffeur. "I knew that day that

Harold had decided to resign," Mr Kaufman said to laughter. "The achievement that he was proudest of, was that he was the first Prime Minister of this century under whom expenditure on education became larger than on defence."

In the Lords, Viscount Cranborne, the Leader of the House, said many peers would remember the dominance Lord Wilson exercised over the political landscape in the 1960s. Peers, he said, were all deeply grateful to Lady Wilson for her admirable role in his life.

He read out a message from Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, who succeeded Lord Wilson as Prime Minister in 1976 and who is in Japan. The message said: "Lord Wilson's purpose was to remove the disfiguring evils of poverty and to create a caring society, with equal opportunity, open to advancement and in tune with the changing needs of his time."

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Liberal Democrat peers' leader, recalled Lord Wilson's courtesy and kindness. "He hated being disagreeable and he liked being nice to people, which is not always the case with those who had his thirst for power. He also had very good nerve in a crisis."

Viscountess Nymphe, former Commons Speaker, who entered Parliament with Harold Wilson as a Labour MP in 1945, said he had loved Britain before all else and was proud to belong to it. After the tributes, both Houses were adjourned in respect.

## School friends remember a clever pupil known as Piggy

By PAUL WILKINSON

"PIGGY" WILSON was recalled with affection yesterday by his old school friends in the Yorkshire mill town where he was born.

The man who later led his country and became a confidant of the monarch earned the nickname among classmates at New Street primary in Huddersfield for his chubby face and stocky build. Home was a substantial terraced house in the middle-class district of Cowlersley, near the works where his father John was employed as an industrial chemist.

His ability was obvious from the start. Harold Ainley, now 80 and a retired pharmacist, said: "We remember him as a brilliant pupil and politician. He was very generous and kind-hearted. We are all very saddened by the news of

tax gramophone records. His old schoolfriend observed: "At that time only upper or middle-class people could afford them and Harold realised that records would be a money-spinner from a tax point of view. It showed what a keen economist he was."

He also recalled an early example of the former Prime Minister's willingness to take risks. Having been told that if he kicked a rugby ball at the centre of a window it would bounce back, he put it to the test. "I didn't wait around to see if his theory was correct," said Mr Ainley. "But he was right. The ball bounced straight back. I suppose you could say he took risks like that throughout his life."

From New Street primary he won a scholarship in 1927 to Royds Hall Grammar School in Huddersfield. In later life staff at the school dined out on how their pupil had written a detailed essay on how he wanted to be Prime Minister. Lord Wilson later wrote that an early influence in his politics was Francis Wilmut, his maths master at Royds Hall, who later became a Labour councillor on Huddersfield Council.

Stephen Bradbury, the present head of Royds Hall, knew Lord Wilson through his parents and his uncle, John Bradbury, 78, who were his classmates.

Lord Wilson attended a number of school reunions. Amy Eagland, whose late husband Gilbert organised them, said: "We used to go round in a gang and you could always tell there was something special about Harold. Once he got typhoid and was away for two terms but when he came back he finished top in the class exams. "He certainly had the gift of the gab. When our history teacher staged the trial of King Charles I as part of a lesson Harold played Charles and persuaded everyone else that he shouldn't be beheaded."

Despite his middle-class background Lord Wilson was brought up in a family which supported the new Labour movement. His grandfather was an early member of the independent Labour party, and his father first voted Labour in a parliamentary election 89 years ago. The family moved to Cheshire when Harold was 16.



Wilson in 1948. "He was generous and kind"

his death but it was not unexpected because he had been suffering from Alzheimer's for some years.

"My wife and I used to have tea with him and Mary in the House of Lords once a year and reminisce about the old days. I last saw him two years ago but I don't think he really knew who I was. Despite the great economic difficulties of the country when he took over he maintained the welfare State and the British people owe him a lot."

In addition to being school friends they were also members of the 20th Millsbridge Baptist Scout troop. Mr Ainley said: "Sherlock Holmes was Harold's big hero. We often played games with him as the great detective and me as Dr Watson."

His political ambitions showed from an early age. While still at primary school he wrote an essay saying that if he was Chancellor he would

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# What Blair can learn from Wilson experience

ALL tributes say more about the speaker than the deceased. Yesterday's remarks in memory of Harold Wilson had several ironic twists. John Major praised Wilson as a conciliator; Tony Blair evoked his ability to symbolise "a new mood of change"; while Tony Benn, looking down on his current leader, talked about Wilson's belief in not flying on the right wing alone.

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The parallels between Wilson and Blair seem close — both elected leader in their 40s after the sudden death of their predecessor, both capitalising on the errors of an accident-prone Tory government, both hailed as deliverers of a possible Labour victory, and both preaching a message of modernisation. But the differences are greater than the similarities. The two have very different approaches. The party leader in the most similar position to Wilson is, in fact, Mr Major.

For Mr Blair, the Wilson record is as much a warning as a guide. The potential is

similar in both cases, not just the vulnerability of the Tories, but also the overwhelming Labour desire for unity, and victory. Just as Wilson was able to suppress, though not answer, the doubts and resentments of the Gaitskellites in 1963-64, so Blair has silenced all but the most vociferous of the hard-Left.

But, unlike Wilson, Blair has confronted his party with the need for change. After Labour lost in 1959, Wilson opposed Gaitskell over replacing Clause Four, not because he favoured wholesale public ownership but because he thought it was like talking Genesis out of the Bible. He believed in smoothing over differences. Mr Blair, in contrast, has argued that rewriting Clause Four is vital to show that Labour has changed, and is a new party. Mr Blair has adopted a deliberately hard-edged, confrontational approach, initiating a wide-ranging review of policy compared with the more Wilsonian John Smith.

This is partly because of the change in the political climate and Labour's repeated electoral failures. Its old working-



class base, and traditional party loyalties, has declined. Labour now needs to reach out to win. Whereas Wilson in the mid-1960s advocated government-led planning of industrial and technological change, Blair has embraced the market. While Wilson raised expectations of what it could do in office in the run-up to the 1964 election, Blair has been lowering them.

Lord Wilson had a weighty record in office: the creation of the Open University, the revolution in secondary education (no matter how controversial

that now looks), the completion of the welfare state safety-net, legislation on sex and racial discrimination and the experiments in industrial intervention.

His central flaw was that he never really took his party with him. His ultimately doomed attempt to avoid devaluation, the introduction of incomes policy and the abortive reform of trade union laws all alienated Labour activists and contributed to the charges of betrayal and the left-wing upsurges that occurred after the defeats in 1970

and 1979. Wilson, and later James Callaghan, both sought to circumvent their party.

Mr Blair realises that he has to retain the support of his party if a Labour government is to weather the inevitable turbulence of office. He has therefore placed a priority on reviving party membership, up nearly two-fifths in the past year. He has gone over the heads of often left-wing activists to the more mainstream ordinary members, which Wilson was never able to do. On Blair's view, a strong party is vital for a successful govern-

ment. Mr Major has been forced, however, to operate more like Lord Wilson. Faced with deep internal divisions, particularly over Europe, he has manoeuvred around the factions. Like Wilson, he has faced the criticism of both the Left and the Right in his party. But he has kept it more or less together. If Mr Blair yesterday highlighted the Wilson of "hope and opportunity" of 1963-64, Mr Major evoked more the world-weary Wilson of the years of office.

PETER RIDDELL

## 'A week is a long time in politics'

HAROLD WILSON was a master of the pithy remark and political putdown long before the term soundbite was coined. Here are some of the things he said:

□ "The school I went to in the North was a school where more than half the children in my class never had boots and shoes on their feet." — As President of the Board of Trade in 1948.

□ "That horny-handed son of the fur-glove trade" — Insulting description of his Foreign Secretary, George Brown, in 1963. Brown had been a glove salesman in his youth.

□ "We are redefining and we are restoring our socialism in terms of the scientific revolution... the Britain that is going to be forged in the white heat of this revolution will be no place for restrictive practices or out-dated methods on either side of industry" — A Commons speech in October, 1963.

□ "After half-a-century of democratic advance, the whole process has ground to a halt with a 14th Earl" — In a speech at Belle Vue, Manchester, October, 1963, referring to the accession of the then Earl of Home as Prime Minister.

□ "You must understand that I am running a Bolshevik Revolution with a Tsarist Shadow Cabinet" — An aside in a speech a few weeks after becoming Labour's leader in February 1964.

□ "Smethwick Conservatives can have the satisfaction of

having topped the poll, of having sent a member who, until another election returns him to oblivion, will serve his time here as a parliamentary leper" — In the Commons in 1964 referring to an election campaign run by Peter Griffiths with the slogan: "If you want a nigger for a neighbour, vote Labour."

□ "Devaluation does not mean that the value of the pound in the hands of the British consumer, the British housewife at her shopping, is cut correspondingly. It does not mean that the pound in the pocket is worth 14 per cent less to us now than it was" — A Prime Ministerial broadcast in November, 1964, on the occasion of a 14 per cent devaluation.

□ "A week is a long time in politics" — At a briefing of lobby journalists in late 1964.

□ "Given a fair wind, we will negotiate our way into the Common Market, head held high, not crawl in" — A speech in 1966.

□ "I am getting tired of this job. I have spent 13 years trying to keep this party together and it's been a pretty thankless task. Do you know, I have only been to the theatre about 20 times in all those years" — Conversing with friends in 1975.

□ "It is said I don't bear grudges. If I did I would have had the smallest Cabinets in history" — At a farewell party given by former Cabinet colleagues in 1976.

## Hurd denies FO defeatism in face of Brussels

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

DOUGLAS HURD rejected yesterday suggestions that he has abandoned all hope of taking back powers from Brussels to Westminster in the forthcoming talks on the future of the European Union.

The Cabinet's special committee drawing up Britain's stance for next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC) on Europe will today propose a list of policy areas where European Union responsibility might be limited or even reduced. Further work on watering down the powers of the European Court of Justice, by limiting its powers to impose retrospective judgments on member states, is also proposed.

However, its report, to be considered by the Cabinet's overseas and defence policy committee, chaired by the Prime Minister and including most Cabinet members, will also conclude that "renationalising" substantial areas of EU competence such as the agricultural policy and the issues covered by the European single market would be unrealistic and counter-productive.

Interviewed yesterday by BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Hurd acted to counter claims by the Eurosceptics that the Foreign Office had been "defeatist" and had given up any attempt to claw back Brussels power. He said there were ideas for limiting the competence of the European Union, and the areas in which it could operate, which were worthy of further study.

Asked if that meant limiting them in future or clawing back some which already existed, Mr Hurd replied: "It might be either." He repeated a recent quotation from Jacques Santer, the EU president, suggesting that the EU "should do less and do it better".

Today's report comes from a Cabinet sub-committee on Europe on which the leading rightwingers Michael Portillo and John Redwood serve. They are reported to have gone along with the conclusion that none of the substantial EU competences would be repatriated at next year's conference.

The committee was advised that none of the other 14 EU countries would support the idea and Britain would be on its own. The apparently agreed view was that if Britain pressed for concessions in those areas it would be required to reciprocate in others.

Today's meeting will endorse Britain's preliminary negotiating line at the first meeting of the EU study group preparing for the IGC which will take place in Messina, Italy, early next month. Some rightwingers complaining that the sub-committee has not gone far enough may try to toughen Britain's line at today's meeting.

Foreign Office sources declined to disclose the specific policy areas which Britain thinks can still be tackled. But it was pointed out that the Government hopes to build on agreements such as that in the Maastricht treaty that there should be a prohibition on further harmonising legislation in the areas of health, education and culture.

Mr Hurd said the success of the EU had been obscured because of the irritation caused by it attempting to do too much and to overregulate, and by the tendency of civil servants in the national countries "to go even further and overinterpret what has been agreed".

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: the House debated the Prime Minister's statement on the future of the European Union. The Prime Minister, Mr Hurd, said that the Government was committed to a "realistic" approach to the IGC. The House then adjourned as a mark of respect. The Lords also paid tribute to Lord Wilson.

TOMORROW in the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister. Debates on the Civil Service and the Commons on June 6.

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Like all Mercedes, it will be the result of exhaustive engineering. It will be functional, not fancy. A car where priority is given to the driver and the driving experience.

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For instance, on the current S-class, we removed the aerial from the rear wing to improve aerodynamics. That's not to say there is no longer an aerial. In fact, there are now two: one in the rear windscreen; the other in the rear bumper.



## Is this as far as a car can go?

Doing this also meant we were able to increase the size of the aerials and thereby improve the quality of reception.

As yet we have been unable to refine the S-class suspension. As anyone who has driven an S-class will confirm, it would be a rather difficult task. Although it won't prevent us trying.

To give an indication of the road that lies ahead, here are a couple of innovations we are developing.

Electronic Stability Programme (ESP) is a

computer system that helps to keep the car stable on surfaces like black ice.

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We believe ESP is the biggest safety breakthrough since anti-lock brakes.

We hope the letters ESP will become as common in the future as ABS are today.

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BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

German tourists in London display their compulsory cards. If they fail to produce them in their homeland they can be held for 24 hours

tic photo-card which would be used as a travel document in Europe. The card would need to show the same information as appears in a passport, including a photograph and could be issued for five to ten years.

No primary legislation would be needed for its introduction. It could be issued by the Passport Office and would cost the applicant £5-£10. However, it might appeal to only a small number of people so would be of limited domestic use.

☐ **Photographic Driving Licence:** the new licence, which includes a photograph and may be issued from July 1996.

could be treated as a *de facto* identity card. It would include name, date and place of birth, signature, address and driver number. Non-drivers could obtain a card for £10-£15.

☐ **Driving Licence-Identity Card:** a dual function card but if people wanted to use it to travel to Europe further information would have to be added. A parallel card would have to be introduced for foreign nationals living in Britain.

☐ **Multi-function Card:** a single card would have several different applications. Headline information such as name, date of birth and nationality could be on the face of

the card, with detailed information relating to government departments stored on a computer chip.

The Green Paper admits there would be more concerns over privacy and data protection than with a simple identity card. Smart cards could limit access to information to those with the need to know.

☐ **Compulsory Identity Card:** this scheme could follow any of the other models but would be compulsory. "The existence of a compulsory card system accompanied by effective enforcement would make it more difficult for terrorists and other serious criminals to assume false identities. A compulsory

card scheme would also make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to stay or to work here legally, including those who have entered the UK illegally and those who have overstayed a limited leave to enter or remain", the consultation paper says.

It would make it possible to expect, and require, an identity card to be used in circumstances where it might not be feasible to expect a voluntary card to be produced. "It would mean that those wishing to misrepresent their identity for criminal purposes would find it more difficult to do so and those seeking to avoid obtaining an identity card would risk

committing an offence." It could also help shopkeepers identify people buying cigarettes or alcohol illegally.

The card would be compulsory over the age of 16. If it were to be valid for European travel there would need to be two cards, one a UK identity card for British citizens and one valid for travel and the other a residence permit for foreign residents. Those refusing to obtain an ID card could be fined or charged.

☐ **Identity cards:** A Consultation Document (Stationery Office: £8)

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**Green Paper, page 15**  
**Leading article, page 15**

## EU fails to agree common approach

ELEVEN of the 15 member states of the European Union have a form of identity card scheme, although there is no common agreement on the need for cards within the Union.

Austria: voluntary. Contains photograph. Citizens are obliged to carry either ID card, driving licence or passport.

Belgium: compulsory. They should be carried at all times.

Denmark: no ID card but compulsory plastic card with compulsory plastic benefits and to enter hospital.

Finland: voluntary.

France: voluntary. Citizens are expected to carry some form of ID.

Germany: compulsory. Not a criminal offence to fail to carry one, but anyone failing to produce a card can be detained for up to 24 hours.

Greece: compulsory. Contains photograph.

Ireland: none.

Italy: voluntary. Citizens expected to carry driving licence, passport or ID card.

Luxembourg: compulsory. Contains photograph.

Malta: compulsory. Obligatory to carry some form of ID.

Portugal: compulsory. Contains photograph and right index-finger print.

Spain: compulsory. Contains date and place of birth, name, address, signature.

Sweden: none.

**BY NICK DUTTALL**  
**TECHNOLOGY**  
**CORRESPONDENT**

**AN ELECTRONIC** fingerprint, encoded on to a microchip, is likely to form the heart of a national identity card. "Smart" cards, which have a tiny computer in the plastic case, hold huge amounts of information, are becoming reliable and cost-effective, experts say.

They are also more difficult to forge and copy when compared with magnetic strips, bar codes and other kinds of coding now commonly used on credit cards.

Government officials know that if an identity card to succeed the public must be convinced that it is secure against fraudsters.

Banking industry experts with wide experience of card fraud believe that the coded fingerprint card is probably the best option. Steve Collins, head of technology development at Barays, said that



### Wartime identity cards were abandoned in 1952

fingerprints as opposed to retinas and other parts of the anatomy were well established for use in courts and for proof of identity.

So-called smart cards raise issues of civil liberties which could override their attractiveness. In Manchester they are being tested as a kind of

electronic bus ticket. The card is read by a radio transmitter/receiver and debited on boarding the bus. Civil liberties campaigners will be concerned that such cards could be used to keep track of individuals.

Identity cards, without a photograph, were introduced at the end of the Second World War. Police and Service personnel in uniform had the power to demand to see a card.

They were withdrawn in 1952 after the case of *Willcock v Muckle* in the High Court. Lord Goddard, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that "to demand a national registration identity card from all and sundry, for instance, from a lady who may leave her car outside a shop longer than she should is really unreasonable. Such action tends to make the public resentful of the acts of the police and incites them to obstruct the police instead of to assist them."

BY STEWART TENDLER

**CHIEF** constables support identity cards as a way of cutting police bureaucracy and combating crimes such as benefits and credit card fraud.

The Association of Chief Police Officers is opposed to compulsory introduction but officers believe the cards would rapidly spread voluntarily as law-abiding citizens welcomed them as a simple step to curbing crime. The association has sounded out continental forces and says any system must have stringent security checks built in.

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# Chirac asks EU leaders to 'summit' over dinner

By ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND  
MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE French President moved yesterday to assert his authority in the international arena by summoning European leaders to what amounts to an informal summit in Paris.

President Chirac's invitation follows a well-publicised meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on the day after he took office, and a far lower key telephone conversation with John Major on Tuesday. The move indicates that M Chirac plans to fulfil campaign pledges to guide France's foreign policy while leaving the Government to handle day-to-day domestic affairs, sources said.

A statement from the Elysée Palace said that European Union leaders had been invited for dinner on June 9. Discussions will centre on preparations for next month's summit in Canada of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations and the European Council meeting in Cannes a couple of weeks later.

In particular, M Chirac plans to use the meeting to launch negotiations before the

1996 inter-governmental conference that will shape the EU's future. A spokesman said that while other leaders returned home, Mr Major would stay in Paris for an extra day to see the President, their first meeting since the French elections.

While M Chirac has reaffirmed a strong commitment to European monetary union as well as to the Union's costly public works programme, many commentators still believe he is anything but a Europhile. Strong Euro-sceptic opinion in M Chirac's Gaullist movement is likely to make its voice heard in the next few months, giving him little room for manoeuvre. His Government's pledge to mount a strong defence of French agriculture is already being taken as a sign that it cannot ignore this voice.

The Prime Minister's meeting with M Chirac will follow a lengthy discussion of French policy with Herr Kohl in Bonn tomorrow. Mr Major is eager to use the change at the Elysée to boost relations with Paris. He is aware, however, that this cannot be at the expense of the Franco-German relationship. He also knows that Britain's ability to influence the development of the EU depends largely on good relations with Bonn.

Yesterday Mr Major called for a new and warmer relationship with Germany. In an interview with the popular newspaper *Bild*, the Prime Minister said: "In the place of this 'silent alliance' between Germany and Great Britain, I would like a partnership that everyone talks about." The popularity enjoyed by Jürgen Klinsmann, at Tottenham Hotspur "in just one season in Great Britain, shows what's possible," he said.



Kohl: due to see Prime Minister tomorrow



Gong Li, the Chinese actress, promotes *Shanghai Triad*, directed by Zhang Yimou, at the 48th Cannes Film Festival in the south of France yesterday

## Elysée seeks to quell doubts on the economy

By ADAM SAGE

EFFORTS began yesterday to counter the widespread scepticism that greeted the litany of promises contained in the programme of President Chirac's new Government.

With the financial markets and political commentators asking how he intended to fund his spending commitments, M Chirac told ministers that the policies were designed to "change mentalities in France and abroad". His spokesman, François Baroin, said that the "coherence" of the twin aims of fighting unemployment and balancing the books would soon become apparent.

However, critics are likely to want more than a verbal assurance that plans for job subsidies, pay rises, new homes and increases in welfare benefits will not plunge France further into the red. Although the Government has not yet costed its programme, economists agree that it will run to tens of billions of francs.

Announcing the programme on Tuesday, Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said that his Gaullist-led Government would reduce public deficits to ensure the economy was ready for the single European currency in 1999. Alain Madelin, the Economy Minister, yesterday reiterated the administration's belief in the strong franc. Yet analysts agree that if the deficits are to be reined in, and devaluation avoided, President Chirac will either have to raise taxes or make unprecedented cuts in

other areas of the budget. Their scepticism stems from M Juppé's failure to specify which of these options the administration intends to follow. On Tuesday, he merely indicated that VAT might have to go up, although it is not clear that this would raise enough to cover the expenses.

Most commentators believe the Government is delaying the announcement of unpopular measures until after municipal elections in mid-June. But in a sign that the markets are unhappy to wait, the franc has fallen against the German mark.

Elsewhere, disappointment at his performance was equally evident. Apart from the pro-Gaullist daily, *Le Figaro*, newspapers pointed to the difficulties that lie ahead for an administration that has pledged to get France back to work without jeopardising its monetary policies. The left-wing *Liberation* said in an editorial that the programme was like a meal containing "cheese, dessert, coffee and digestif. But who's going to pay for all that?"

Meanwhile, *Le Monde* pointed to contradictions in a European policy that seeks to combine economic orthodoxy with typically Gaullist pledges to defend French agriculture.

In response, President Chirac told a Cabinet meeting: "Success will only be possible if we manage to rediscover, on the one hand, the spirit of initiative and, on the other, the spirit of conquest."

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Talks on Italian TV vote collapse

Rome: Talk among Italian political parties on averting a referendum which could strip Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, of two of his three television stations have collapsed. Mr Berlusconi said yesterday. A referendum was said to be a certainty.

Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and centrist and Centre-Left parties had been holding talks on how to head off a referendum on June 11 on a proposal to bar anyone from owning more than one television station.

Last week the Government proposed a state-owned RAI television, which also has three channels, and Signor Berlusconi's 'invest' would have to sell me each by the middle of 1997 and another in 1998. (AFP)

#### Short o' change

Brussels: Notes and coins for a proposed European single currency will not be in general circulation until 2006, the European Commissioner responsible for introducing the new money, said.

#### Liner on fire

Dubai: More than 500 German tourists aboard a stricken cruise liner were being towed to the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah after fire crippled her engines and left her drifting in the Red Sea. (Reuters)

#### Womer killed

Ankara: Three men were held after a Dutch woman and a Russian were raped and killed in Alanya, Turkey, and three Dutch women were raped, and thrown off a cliff. Two survived. (Reuters)

#### Dragging on

Prague: President Havel of the Czech Republic, himself a heavy smoker, rejected legislation adopted by parliament that would have severely curbed smoking in public places within weeks. (AP)

## Chechen fighting threatens peace talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

FIERCE fighting broke out across Chechnya yesterday as Russian forces and Chechen rebels clashed on several fronts, dimming the prospects for peace talks in Grozny this morning.

Russian and Chechen spokesmen confirmed that their forces were engaged in heavy fighting, as Russian aircraft and artillery continued to pound separatist

villages in the foothills of the Caucasus. Chechen guerrillas hit back with an attack on the outskirts of the capital.

"Chechen crack units have now reached the northern suburbs and are pushing back Russian guards," said Movladi Udugov from a rebel position 35 miles southeast of Grozny. The Russians confirmed the action, but said that forces loyal to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, were in disarray and would be driven out of their positions

within a month. The Russians claimed that 109 Chechen fighters have been killed since Tuesday, while the rebels said that 46 civilians were the real victims.

The scale of the fighting threatened to undermine the talks, which were brokered by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. However, Sandor Meszaros, head of the organisation's team, said he was still hopeful that today's ceasefire would be respected and negotiators would attend the talks.



Dudayev: his forces are said to be in disarray

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## Serbs accused of using phosphorus shells as Nato finalises pullout plan

## Russians in fresh peace bid as more Bosnians die

BY JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THREE people were killed yesterday and at least 15 wounded in Sarajevo as fighting around the Bosnian capital escalated sharply with Serbs apparently using phosphorus shells in ways banned by Geneva war conventions.

The Bosnian battles continued as international peace negotiators were seeking a way to end a deadlock with President Milosevic of Serbia, who seemed to be driving a new wedge between America and Russia over attempts to persuade him to recognise Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A Russian envoy arrived in Belgrade on a solo peace mission yesterday following a stalled American attempt to persuade the Serbian President to ease of sanctions. Aleksandr Zotov, a member of the five-nation Contact Group on former Yugoslavia, flew in after a week-long attempt by his American colleague, Robert Frasure, founded over President Milosevic's insistence that the sanctions should be completely lifted, not just

suspended. There was concern in Washington that the Russian envoy's visit had not been cleared with other members of the group, and that Moscow, which has traditionally close ties to Serbia, might undermine the peace process.

European sources, however, were more optimistic that a deal could be struck. A British spokesman said: "It is not all doom and gloom. There is still a feeling that a deal can be done." Substantial progress had been achieved on recognition and aspects of sanctions suspension formalities.

In Sarajevo, at least one shell containing phosphorus, which can cause severe burns, is believed to have been used during fierce fighting around a market. The Geneva Convention tolerates the use of phosphorus in a "defensive manner", but it is not allowed to be used as an offensive weapon.

A Dutch United Nations commander, Brigadier-General Cees Nikolai, refused a request for Nato air strikes by Major-General Hervé Gobillard, the French commander



A Sarajevo woman, Ljilja Trifkovic, shelters in a passage as sniper fire and shells hit nearby houses yesterday

of UN forces in Sarajevo. UN observers have evidence that many of the blasts in and around Sarajevo, which have increased dramatically in the past few weeks, have been caused by the Muslim-led

government forces. William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said yesterday that Nato's withdrawal plan for the 23,000 peacekeepers in the country was "essentially complete". Any withdrawal, deci-

sion was up to the UN Security Council, he said, but the plan would require more than 50,000 Nato troops, half of them American.

In Croatia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the UN human rights

envoy and former Polish Prime Minister, said that atrocities had been committed during the army's recapture of a breakaway Serb enclave three weeks ago, but he gave no details.

## All-white rugby team fails to win township support

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE biggest sporting event in South African history begins today amid controversy and political mud-slinging over its racial overtones.

The Rugby World Cup is at the centre of a political slanging match after opposition parties accused President Mandela of racism when he expressed disappointment over the composition of South African sports teams. Mr Mandela said the Government was determined that the present Springbok side would be the last "lily-white" team and was saddened that Chester Williams, the only Coloured player in contention for the team, had been forced to withdraw from the squad through injury.

Although Mr Mandela's office has denied reports that he told a British television interviewer that the national under-21 side would have to be half black and half white, the Far-Right Conservative Party has accused Mr Mandela of "blatant discrimination and racism against whites". The National Party of F.W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President, described his comments as "laughable".

The dispute highlighted the racial tension simmering just below the surface of the event. Rugby has always stirred passions in South Africa, where for many blacks the game was synonymous with apartheid. Blacks would cheer on visiting rugby teams and Mr Mandela admitted yesterday that he had always supported the Springboks' opponents until 1993.

"Many people in the townships hated rugby because it was seen as the white man's sport and our interest is in soccer," says Joseph Hlahele, 34, a security guard from Soweto. "It would take a good five years before that attitude changes fundamentally."

The tragedy is that a tournament that will attract 2.5 billion television viewers around the world will pass many South Africans by. While white suburbs are awash with World Cup adver-

tising, the publicity machine appears to have left the townships almost untouched.

In a country where one in three blacks is unemployed and 60 per cent of households earn less than 700 rands (£116) a month, tickets are out of reach for most South Africans. The cheapest seat for England's opening game against Argentina on Saturday costs 66 rands. This makes the Springbok side's slogan of "one team, one nation" ring a little hollow.

There appears to be growing interest in the sport, however, and organisers are confident that with the help of the media the country will unite behind the national team. Backed by the Northern Transvaal Rugby Union, the South African Broadcasting Corporation has instructed commentators from each black radio station on the rules of rugby. The opening game in Cape Town today will be the first match to be given full radio commentary in all 11 official languages.

Mr Mandela yesterday visited the Springbok camp and said: "I've never been so proud of our boys... I hope we will all be cheering them on to victory. They will be playing for the entire South Africa."

David Miller, page 45



Mandela: disappointed by "lily-white" team

## Cairo tombs yield 'superb' art

BY ANJANA AHUJA

WALL paintings, reliefs and statues have been discovered in cave tombs near Cairo, it was disclosed yesterday. French archaeologists came across the "exceptional" find while excavating 20 tombs of nobles uncovered in Saqqara, the necropolis of Memphis, the capital of the Old Kingdom.

Two 3ft statues and the reliefs were found in one of the tombs, which date from the 14th and 13th centuries BC. "This is the first time New

Kingdom statues carved into rock have been discovered at Saqqara," Dr Alain Zivie, the archaeologist leading the team, said. The find also included a "superb ceiling decorated in brilliant colours" and paintings of nobles.

Hidden away: An Egyptian dental worker who tried to keep the existence of a pharaonic tomb under his home a secret has been released on bail, the newspaper *al-Akhbar* reported. A 165ft tunnel linked his home to the tomb near the Valley of the Nobles in Luxor, 400 miles south of Cairo. (AFP)

## US pundit linked to car lobby

Washington: George Will and his wife Mari Maseng are a Washington power couple, he as one of America's leading conservative pundits, she as a lobbyist (Ian Brodie writes). Now they are being criticised because he kept quiet about her role on behalf of Japanese car makers.

In his column and on television, Mr Will has assailed

the Clinton Administration's plan to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Japanese luxury cars, saying it would annihilate trade and make the vehicles impossible to sell. He did not disclose that his wife lobbies for the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association. Nor is there any reason why he should, Mr Will said. He was in favour of

free trade long before he met his wife. "What's to disclose?" he asked. "That one of my wife's clients agrees with my views on free trade?"

Others said he had made a mistake. They argued that Ms Maseng's lobbying, for which her firm was paid nearly \$200,000 (£128,000) last year, was a material fact that should have been declared.



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## Senate spurns Gingrich tax cuts package

FROM IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH had called tax cuts the "crown jewels" of the Republicans' Contract with America, but yesterday he lost them. In an emphatic rebuff that exposed the depth of a Republican rift, the Senate rejected a tax-cut package of \$350 billion (£225 billion), which had been approved just a week earlier in the House of Representatives where Mr Gingrich rules as Speaker.

Twenty-three out of 54 Republican senators joined forces with all 46 Democrats to defeat the measure by 69 votes to 31. The result put the Senate squarely behind the argument that the budget must be balanced before taxes can be reduced. It also exposed the jockeying for the White House that is beginning to infect Republican politics.

The resolution was sponsored by Phil Gramm, the Texas Senator whose campaign for President is pitched at conservatives favouring tax cuts. His rival for the Republican presidential nomination, Robert Dole, backed the Gramm resolution but only, his critics said, after he knew it would lose.

Yesterday, Mr Dole, who is anxious not to cede conservative supporters to Mr Gramm, was trying to put together a smaller tax-cut proposal that would provide tax credits for families and reduce capital gains taxes. But after Mr Gramm's loss, some Republicans thought Mr Dole had nothing to gain with a resolution that would probably also lose.

Democrats, who have had little to celebrate since their loss of Capitol Hill last November, were gleeful over the Republicans' disarray. They had denounced the tax cuts as a ploy to help the rich with savings culled from pulverising social programmes for the poor.

## Concern grows for Clinton security in face of right-wing hostility

# Armed intruder at White House shot after scaling fence

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

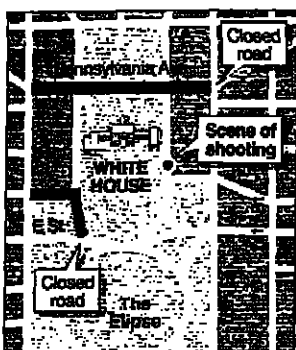
AN ARMED man and a Secret Service agent were recovering from gunshot wounds in hospital yesterday after yet another attack on the White House.

Just four days after Pennsylvania Avenue was closed permanently to traffic to prevent car bombs, a man with a pistol scaled the wrought-iron fence surrounding the south lawn on Tuesday night and ran to the mansion. He was tackled by the agent 30 yards short of where President Clinton had climbed out of his limousine half an hour earlier.

In the ensuing scuffle, a second Secret Service agent shot the intruder in the arm. The bullet then hit the first agent, Scott Giambattista, also in the arm.

Mr Clinton and his family were upstairs in the private quarters and in no immediate danger, but his security has become such a concern that he has not gone for his customary early-morning jog on the Mall since the day of the Oklahoma bombing. Instead, he uses a running machine and lifts weights in the White House, or jogs at a military base near by as he did yesterday. The number of guards and concrete barriers on roads around the mansion has been increased.

Mr Clinton arouses an unusually passionate hatred



among certain right-wing groups. A profound sense of alienation and hostility towards government is also sweeping the heartlands, and the President reportedly has received more threats than any of his predecessors.

Last September, a depressed Maryland man crashed a light plane into the south face of the White House. Since then, a Colorado man has fired 29 shots from a semi-automatic rifle at the north face of the mansion, a nocturnal drive-by gunman fired at the building from beyond the south lawn, and police killed a homeless man who ran across Pennsylvania Avenue, brandishing a knife.

What motivated Tuesday night's intruder was unclear. He was identified as Leland Modjeski, 37 and married, from Washington's Virginia suburbs. He did not appear to

have a criminal record but reportedly had just lost his job in a pizza restaurant. Whether he was in the area when Mr Clinton returned from a Democratic dinner 30 minutes earlier was unknown, but initial reports suggested his pistol was not loaded.

Mr Clinton, who was talking at the time to Leon Panetta, his chief of staff, said the Secret Service "did a great job. They were right on it, they were terrific."

Breaches of the ten-foot-high fence surrounding the White House grounds are not uncommon. It was scaled at least 23 times between 1989 and 1994. However, the last time an intruder was killed was in 1976, and the last time a Secret Service agent was wounded on duty was in 1981 when John Hinckley tried to assassinate President Reagan.

Prosecutors decided not to accuse Mr Modjeski with threatening the life of the President. Rather, he has been charged with assaulting a federal officer and with carrying a firearm with intent to commit a crime. Both offences carry a maximum sentence of ten years in prison.

According to Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, Mr Clinton shrugged the incident off with a quip about "just another day at the White House".



Rose Mary Modjeski being escorted by police from her home in Falls Church, Virginia, yesterday for questioning about the actions of her husband

## Oklahoma bomb 'was made by Nichols'

Washington: A close friend of Timothy McVeigh, the main suspect in last month's Oklahoma City bombing, has directly implicated a second man in what investigators consider a breakthrough in the case (Martin Fletcher writes).

Michael Fortier has told the FBI that Terry Nichols, who is being held in connection with the bombing, was given the job of mixing the chemicals used in the massive fertiliser and fuel-oil bomb. Mr Fortier served in the army with both men and chose Mr McVeigh as best man at his wedding. He has admitted prior knowledge of the plot, but denies participating in the bombing and is now co-operating with the FBI in the hope of avoiding prosecution.

A judge has released Terry Nichols' elder brother, James, who had been in custody since April 21. He must, however, wear an electronic device so he can be tracked.

## Cross-dress boy sues for \$22.5m

New York: Caleb Guerrier, 13, a Brooklyn schoolboy, has filed a \$22.5 million (£14 million) lawsuit against his teacher, claiming he was emotionally traumatised by being made to wear women's clothing as a punishment (Ben Macintyre writes). He says Pauline Williamson, his teacher at a Seventh Day Adventist School, routinely punished boys by making them wear a wig, bra, skirt and high heels. In the state Supreme Court suit, he says he was beaten by schoolmates on April 24 and forcibly dressed up while Ms Williamson laughed. She has been suspended.

## Kennedy home to be landmark

New York: The Kennedy family's seaside home in Palm Beach, Florida, has been sold to John K. Castle, a New York banker, for an undisclosed sum (Ben Macintyre writes). The building, which until recently symbolised the glamour of America's most powerful political dynasty, will be a designated landmark.

## Writer balks at hit film losses

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES



Tom Hanks in the title role in *Forrest Gump*

THE author of *Forrest Gump*, the book which was turned into an Oscar-winning film, has retained a lawyer to investigate the accounting practices of the studio which has reported losing money on the film.

The film took \$657 million (£421 million) at the box office, but Paramount Pictures says it made a net loss of \$62 million after salaries and cinemas'

share of receipts. The author, Winston Groom, would have earned a 3 per cent royalty on the film's net profits, but has received only a \$350,000 advance. He has been offered a further \$250,000.

Tom Hanks, the film's star, and Robert Zemeckis, the director, have each earned about \$20 million, thanks to contracts giving them a share of gross takings.

## Bear killing mystifies police

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

NEW York police are accustomed to finding victims of violent crime in strange places, but a 150lb black bear whose mutilated body was discovered in a city park this week, may be the most peculiar mugging victim to date.

City authorities believe the 4ft female, which had been disemboweled and had a handmade crucifix inside its carcass, may have been used

as a sacrifice or killed for its organs. A reward of \$2,500 (\$1,602) is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the animal's killer.

The bear was found, wrapped in a blanket, in Forest Park in Queens. Police initially suspected it had been killed by devotees of the Santeria religion, a mixture of Afro-Caribbean theology and Catholicism involving animal

sacrifice. Santeria worshippers, however, usually kill smaller creatures, such as ducks and chickens, which tend not to fight back.

Another theory is that the bear was killed by poachers who planted the cross to implicate the sect. A bear gallbladder, considered a powerful aphrodisiac in parts of Asia, can fetch up to \$40,000 on China's black market.

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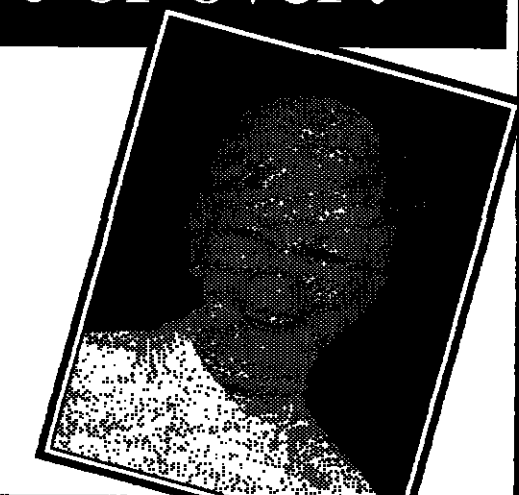
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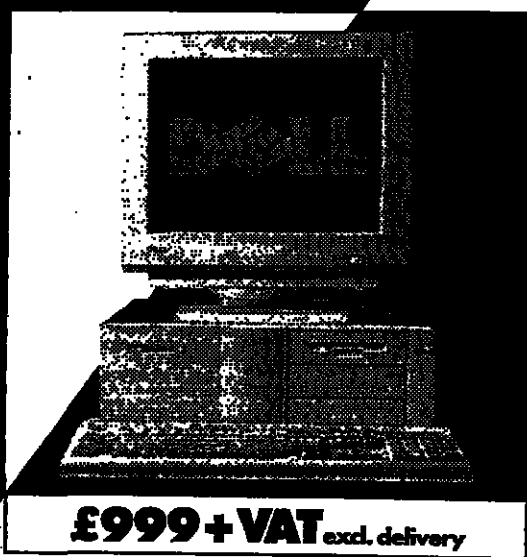
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Mike Quilter, a member of New Zealand's all conquering America's Cup team, accepts the acclaim of Auckland in Queen Street yesterday

## Rapturous welcome for New Zealand's heroes

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO  
IN WELLINGTON

THE people of Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, went wild with joy yesterday as they fêted the crew of *Black Magic*, winners of the America's Cup 12 days ago. An estimated crowd of 300,000 crammed the route for a ticker-tape welcome.

James Bolger, the Prime Minister, was at Auckland Airport to welcome home the Team New Zealand syndicate. He told the crew that they had captured the country's emotions by winning five straight races in the final off San Diego, forcing the Americans to relinquish yachting's most coveted prize for only the second time in the cup's 144-year history.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the first conqueror of Mount Everest, was at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron in Auckland as Peter Blake, the syndicate manager, handed the cup to Peter Hay, the squadron's commodore, with the message: "Well, here it is." Sir Edmund said it was a great moment, adding: "It's bigger than Everest."



Forget-Me-Nor

## Sixteen year old Katia was killed because she refused to cover her head with a veil. How much longer before you join us?

Katia Bengana was not the only young woman in Algiers who didn't want to wear the hijab, the Islamic veil, but she was one who spoke out.

She told the world about the bullies who, more than once, had warned that unless she dressed the way they wanted, they would kill her.

Factions in Algeria, calling themselves 'armed Islamic groups' have repeatedly threatened women not to go out in public without first covering their heads. They have also threatened girls who go to mixed schools and any female who goes to mixed swimming pools.

Just over a year ago, Katia was walking home from school with a friend, who was veiled. The two young women were stopped by a gunman. He signalled Katia's friend to stand aside and then shot Katia dead.

Her sorrowing family told how Katia had refused to be intimidated by the extremists.

Katia's father, desperately worried for her safety, had asked her to put on the veil, even though he himself supported her right not to wear it. But Katia refused, saying she would decide for herself who she should be, and how she should dress.

'She was adamant', says her sister. 'Even if she had to die, she would not wear the veil.'

Sadly in Algeria it's not only armed groups who fail to respect human rights. The very people who have sworn to protect human rights, whose duty it is to protect the people - the security forces - are themselves implicated in the torture, killing and 'disappearances' of thousands. Can you even begin to imagine what it's like to be terrorised out of your most basic freedom?

Would you have the guts to speak out against men with guns? Wouldn't you pay for strong friends to stop the intimidation and the killing?

Amnesty International works tirelessly all over the world to safeguard people's basic human rights. At any given moment, we speak out on behalf of hundreds of people who are in danger of torture, 'disappearance' or death. Over the years, we have helped thousands.

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For the sake of children like Katia, who need our help and yours, please join us.

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## Peking toughens dissident crackdown

By JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CHINESE police have detained two more dissidents in a campaign to avert unrest on the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4.

The detention yesterday of Gou Qinghui, a theology lecturer, and Sha Yuguang, the veteran democracy campaigner, late on Tuesday brought to at least 12 the number of dissidents known to have been arrested in the past week. Ms Gou and Mr Sha had signed a petition that was due to be published on Wednesday, urging the authorities to learn a lesson from the bloody 1989 crackdown and push for democracy and the rule of law.

Ms Gou is the wife of Xiao Biquang, a Peking University lecturer and Protestant activist, who has been in jail, uncharged, since April 1994, for signing a manifesto calling for human rights for industrial workers. Last May, when Ms Gou was at police headquarters inquiring about her husband, she had a heart

attack. China also remained intransigent yesterday over appeals that a huge gathering of international women's groups should not be kept away from the United Nations Women's Conference due to be held in Peking in September.

Despite rumblings of a possible boycott or relocation of the entire conference, the Chinese Government rejected a plea for the Non-Governmental Organisations' Forum to be held in the capital instead of in the town of Huairou, 35 miles away.

"We have no plans to change the forum venue from Huairou," said a spokeswoman for the All-China Women's Federation, host of the meeting of non-governmental organisations. The women's groups gave China until Tuesday to offer an acceptable alternative to Huairou, a sleepy resort about 90 minutes by bus from Peking.

Odam, one of the organisations taking part in the forum, said yesterday that it still hoped the event of up to 40,000

interest groups and journalists could be returned to the huge Workers' Stadium or split between the Capital Gymnasium and Asian Games Village, both within the city.

Australia, Canada and New Zealand support the non-governmental organisations and have made high-level representations to China's Foreign Ministry.

In the run-up to the Tiananmen massacre, the authorities have been intensifying their clampdown on well-known activists, many of whom are nationally-known intellectuals. They include the "father" of China's nuclear weapons programme, the country's authority on Einstein, a former editor of the Party's *Peking People's Daily*, and one of the student leaders in 1989.

Some were among the 45 signatories of the petition calling for tolerance and warning that China's continuing 2,000-year tradition of "a single voice" that denies heterodox views in art, literature, science and

religion, is restricting progress in the country. Some signatories have already been political prisoners: Xu Liangying, 77, a physicist who has translated Einstein into Chinese, was held for 20 years in the late 1950s; Wang Dan, who was charged as a student "black hand" in 1989, was detained for three years and has been harassed by police since his release. He was rearrested last Sunday and is on hunger strike.

Force, as well as tragedy, has marked the run-up to the anniversary. On Tuesday, the American Purdue University Jazz Band, which had been booked to play this week at Maxim's restaurant, just off Tiananmen, arrived in Peking from Shanghai, where it had been prevented from performing, to be told that the Public Security Bureau had decided its performance would "constitute an illegal gathering". Devon Johnson, the band's alto-saxophonist, summed up the group's impression of their reception, saying:

"This really stinks." The band's conductor observed: "We had been warned to roll with the punches."

In Hong Kong, Robin Munro, a leading authority on Chinese political prisoners, said yesterday: "Peking is caught in a circle of repression of their own making. They should take a brave and imaginative step to start accommodation with the democratic forces. But instead, they're screwing the lid down tighter. It's going to blow off."

Macau: Lu Ping, China's top official for Hong Kong and Macau, has praised Portugal for co-operating with the handover of territory, and contrasted it to the chilliness he had felt dealing with British officials handling the return of Hong Kong. As he began a visit to the Portuguese colony, Mr Lu praised Macau's airport, saying it was a "fine example" of Sino-Portuguese diplomacy. Mr Lu recently refused to meet Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, during an eight-day visit. (AFP)

## Indians worried by Tigers' missiles

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

INDIA is alarmed by the increasing sophistication of the 12-year civil war in Sri Lanka, where Tamil Tiger rebels have shot down two aircraft with surface-to-air missiles and are believed to possess chemical weapons.

Hundreds of members of the armed forces have been killed since the rebels ended a 100-day truce last month. Their acquisition of missiles and possibly chemical devices has serious regional implications, particularly for India in its fight against separatists in Kashmir.

The missiles have forced the Sri Lankan Air Force to limit operations, giving the Tigers a greater edge in hit-and-run attacks. It has become more difficult to supply a crucial military base at Pooneryn on the Jaffna peninsula, the closest base to the rebels' stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula.

The missiles may have been bought in Afghanistan, where former Mujahidin fighters receive shoulder-held missiles from the United States for use against forces of the former Soviet Union.

The Kashmir conflict would abruptly change if anti-aircraft missiles fell into separatist hands. Helicopters are vital for Indian operations in mountain passes.

Colombo has privately asked India to help in its drive against the Tigers and although Delhi is worried about upsetting the 50 million Tamils in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, it is keen to track down Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tigers' leader, who allegedly masterminded the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister.

In eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, Tamil Tigers ambushed a civilian bus, killing two police commandos and three women passengers. On Tuesday, rebels attacked an army patrol in the same region, killing 27 soldiers. The military said at least 20 rebels died, although the Tigers said they lost two.

## Australian state drops royal oath

Sydney: Royal references and oaths of allegiance to the Crown are to be stripped from public life under a Bill in the New South Wales parliament (Roger Maynard writes).

The words "God save the Queen" will be omitted from state documents, while government servants will be required to pledge their loyalty to Australia.

Bob Carr, the new Labor Premier, said that the use of royal titles had no relevance and he insisted it was unacceptable to swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen.

## Rwanda plea

Abuja: The international community has not yet come up with desperately-needed aid promised in January to help Rwanda recover from genocide, Marc Rugenera, the Finance Minister, said. (Reuters)

## Car bomb kills 4

Lima: Suspected Maoist Shining Path guerrillas exploded a car bomb in front of an hotel in the Miraflores district of the capital, killing four people and wounding at least 15 others, authorities said. (Reuters)

## Death row suit

Houston: Andrew Mitchell, an accused killer who spent 13 years on death row before an appeals court overturned his sentence, filed a \$12 million lawsuit against the sheriff who prosecuted him. (AP)

## Packer coup

Sydney: Kerry Packer, the media magnate and Australia's richest man, won \$20 million (£12.8 million) in a 40-minute gambling spree on the blackjack tables in Las Vegas, it was reported here. (Reuters)

## Piggy bank

Salinas, California: Two farmers have paid \$108,000 (£69,230) for a 219lb pig raised by a 14-year-old girl who has had a brain tumour operation. The money will help to pay for her treatment. (Reuters)

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# Time has brought revenge for Wilde

We honour Oscar Wilde's genius by dedicating a panel in the new Poets' Corner Memorial Window... so some three months ago spoke the Dean of Westminster when the great writer and poet was admitted to the company of the immortals.

How attitudes have changed: all was darkly different a century ago. The trial of Wilde for indecency was the talk of the town. On May 25, 1895, Wilde was convicted and sent to prison for two years' hard labour — there was no remission. The press and public whipped themselves up into a state of self-righteous indignation as they vied with each other to vilify him. A few months after his imprisonment he was ignominiously declared bankrupt. He was broken by his sentence, and on release he chose exile in Paris, dying at the Hôtel d'Alsace in 1900 at the age of 46.

Wilde was charged under a law which had a curious history. Before 1885 the law punished only acts against public decency or those tending to the corruption of youth. But homosexual acts between consenting adult males in private were not criminal. The change creating a criminal offence was slipped, without any serious debate, into the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, which had been designed as legislation to protect women and girls and to suppress brothels.

It was under this new law that Wilde was charged and brought low. But doubts about the legislation did not prevent Wilde suffering the full rigours of the law. Raffish, even louche, ostentatious, content to

A hundred years after Oscar Wilde was convicted, Lord Alexander QC deplores the mob rule at his trial



His counsel argued his case for nothing

shock and attracted to the demi-monde, his lifestyle was repugnant to the morality of the times. In April and May 1885 he went through three trials. In the first Wilde was convicted and sentenced to two years' hard labour. The press and public whipped themselves up into a state of self-righteous indignation as they vied with each other to vilify him. A few months after his imprisonment he was ignominiously declared bankrupt. He was broken by his sentence, and on release he chose exile in Paris, dying at the Hôtel d'Alsace in 1900 at the age of 46.

The first trial against him ended in disagreement. Some felt the matter should have ended there. Edward Carson, who had been counsel against Wilde in the libel case, asked the prosecutor to "let up" as Wilde "had suffered a great deal". But the charge was pressed again and the second jury convicted.

By modern standards, the three trials were held in miraculously speedy succession. "All trials are trials for one's life," Wilde later wrote. He visibly disintegrated under the strains of defending himself, and press hostility. But he nonetheless bravely stood his ground, and declined offers to flee abroad: "I cannot see myself slinking round the Continent, fugitive from justice."

Even before his trial, unprotected by the modern laws of

contempt of court, Wilde was spared no indignity. Upon his arrest a crowd demonstrated outside his publishers and broke the windows. His successful plays, *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, were taken off the London stage. With two honourable exceptions, the press was bitterly hostile to him. Typical was one newspaper which labelled him "a social pest, a centre of intellectual corruption", who attacked "all the wholesome, manly, simple ideas of English life". Even the examining magistrate said: "I think there is no worse case than that with which the prisoner is charged". When the time came to pass sentence, the High Court judge spoke of his "utmost sense of indignation at the horrible charges". It was no wonder that the crowd humiliated Wilde when he stood, handcuffed and in prison uniform, on Clapham station. One man spat at him and, for the following year, Wilde "wept every day at the same hour".

There are a few who swam against the stream and emerged with honour. Sir Edward Clarke, QC, the doyen of the Bar, fulfilled fearlessly and most ably that

profession's tradition of arguing unpopular causes, and he did so without fee. Wilde's friends the Levensons gave him shelter when he was on bail between the two trials. But perhaps most touching was the deeply humane act of the Rev Steward Headlam. He barely knew Wilde, but he stood bail for him, risking a stoning by a furious mob, because he felt strongly that the actions of the press were calculated to prejudice Wilde's trial. After sentence Wilde asked faintly: "And I, may I say nothing my Lord?" But he was hurried away.

At first there were only a few faithful friends who spoke for him but as the years went by, assessments became more sympathetic. With changing attitudes to homosexuality, the fuss over his acts began to seem hard to understand. But it was above all his works which rehabilitated him. In time his plays, his prose and his poems spoke eloquently above the sizzle of the trial and the savage prejudices of his time. At his trial Wilde was cross-examined on his writings, particularly *Dorian Gray*, to suggest that they were evidence of his own homosexuality. Coleridge had said: "Judge no man by his books", but Wilde's prosecutors tried to condemn the man through his artistic works.

But it is by these very works that the man stands to be judged in a very different way. He lies honoured in Père Lachaise cemetery with a fine Epstein bust in one of the most frequently visited tombs. His plays remain fresh and continue to delight. He did not expect as much at the end of his life: his modest hope was that



Judge no man by his books: a lawyer's view of the sensational trial that sent Oscar Wilde to prison for two years

## Oscar and Alexander

"I know not whether Laws be right, Or whether Laws be wrong: All that we know who lie in gaol Is that the wall is strong: And that each day is like a year, A year whose days are long." [from *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*]



There are few who have fallen so far so fast

What moved a busy man like Lord Alexander of Weeton, QC, full-time chairman of National Westminster Bank and active, law-reforming member of the House of Lords, to sit down and compose the centenary piece (above) on the conviction of Oscar Wilde?

"It is always difficult to run to earth one's precise reasons for doing things, but I suppose this goes back to the time when I was reading English at university [King's College, Cambridge] and decided, part-way through, that I wanted to change to law and become an advocate. I began reading biographies of the great advocates, notably Carson, Marshall Hall, Rufus Isaacs, Birkett, Hastings and Sir Edward Clarke — a giant of his time, with great side-whiskers. As my interest in the law grew further I read some of the most interesting cases. The story of Wilde's trial holds so many fascinations for lawyers and in a sense the fascination with the law impinged on the interest in literature.

"I had seen Wilde's plays and marvelled at the elegance of his style, but like most of us I saw them very young, before I knew anything of the way his life had ended. There are few who have fallen so far, so fast." Robert Alexander

did his share of criminal advocacy in the early Sixties when he started out as a barrister on the Western Circuit. The law on homosexual behaviour in private had already been reformed, so he never defended anyone in Wilde's position, but he did see the police bring cases for indecency in public lavatories. "They tended to happen in quiet towns like Andover and Devizes, where there was little serious crime and the police had time for that sort of thing."

Two great advocates he would add to his list after Clarke are the late Gerald Gardiner (who became Lord Chancellor) and Desmond Acland (who went to the Court of Appeal). The only current practitioner on the list would be the formidable libel counsel, George Carman, QC. Alexander wants to reform libel proceedings with a new "fast track" approach, however, and while not quite accepting the layman's view of libel as a lottery he admits he "always heaved a mighty sigh of relief" when he won one.

At Père Lachaise cemetery Lord Alexander paid his respects not only to Oscar Wilde, but also to Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish army officer whom the French courts falsely imprisoned for treason shortly before Wilde's conviction. "It was an immensely unfair trial," he says, adding: "The reputation of Dreyfus was also, in the end, rehabilitated, in his case because a few brave people, in particular Zola and 'Tiger' Clemenceau, kept the matter in the public eye."

MARGOT NORMAN

## Country singer Kinky strikes a literary chord

Even with a name as preposterous as his, Kinky Friedman turned out to be more than I had expected. He was staying at Hazlitts Hotel in Frith Street, the home in the 18th century of the writer William Hazlitt but now a discreet hostelry devoted to the comfort of elderly literary figures seeking tranquillity in the centre of London. I was greeted by the sight of a dark desperado resembling Lee Van Cleef at the end of a rough day in the saddle while filming *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. Lean and satanic, with narrowed, flinty eyes and a weather-beaten complexion, Friedman was slumped in an armchair wearing his black ten-gallon hat, a leather thong tie of the sort favoured by old-time Wild West gunfighters, and jeans with a silver belt buckle studded with a riot of fat green jewels.

Suddenly, the glittering white gate of his mouth opened into an enormous dazzling smile. "Why, Helloooo," he bellowed in his raw Texan accent. "Care for some tea? The Kinkster's doing his best to adopt some English habits, you see. Sorry I didn't bring my guitar. You know how it is travelling... ya godda roll with the bullets."

At this point, 12 seconds into our interview, "The Kinkster" settled into his rolling monologue, its rhythm the sort you might expect from a man who spends much of his life perched on a stool on dim and smoky clubland stages, occasionally strumming a guitar and dispensing a perambulatory of jokes and tales. Friedman is an unusual hybrid artist. Primarily a country and western singer-songwriter, he has turned his

Writing novels comes easy to this Texan loner



Kinky Friedman: bestseller

hand to writing gunshoe detective novels.

His seventh novel, *Armadillos and Old Lace*, published this week by Faber, is likely to cause a stampede to Rosie O'Grady's in Liverpool on Friday when he and a local band will be playing. The Kinkster and his own band, Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys, are known for hits such as *They Ain't making Jews Like Jesus Anymore*.

His books are equally iconoclastic. "I'm not into intricate plotting. My theme is that nothing is what it appears to be in life and that is the secret of a good mystery."

Friedman doesn't exactly wear himself out inventing characters for his books. He stars in them all, and the heroine of *Armadillos and Old Lace* is Pat Knox, who beat him in the Justice of the

Peace elections in his home town, Kerrville. "I'm not afraid of success, failure, life or death — just afraid I may have to stop talking about myself for five minutes."

His interest in music dates back to the day when his parents gave him an accordion at the age of 13 and he formed a band that played around campfires. At 20, he took off for the jungles of Borneo to work as a volunteer with the Peace Corps. On returning to America, he spent several years personally researching cocaine and bourbon. "But I sorted myself out to do some proper music and writing."

Now that he has an international profile (his books have been translated into ten languages), Friedman travels during the summer and spends his winters, he says, as a hermit on his Texan ranch. Late at night, he is to be found giggling at the typewriter over his peculiar brand of wit. His gunshoe tales are in the best Sam Spade tradition — as one critic described him, he is like a party at which Woody Allen, S.J. Perelman, Damon Runyon and Dashiell Hammett are all on speed.

JOANNA PITMAN

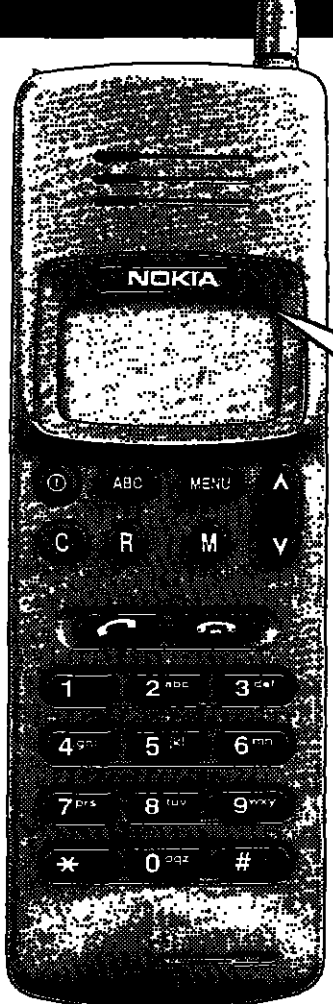
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The story behind a Prime Minister's sensational resignation □ Biochemical action of liquorice □ When hypertension needs treatment



**SOON** after the second 1974 general election when the Conservatives re-elected me to fight the Isle of Ely, Harold Wilson, the Labour Prime Minister, came up to me in the Athenaeum to wish me good luck in my future campaign. He ended our conversation by saying that much as he hoped I would return to the House he wouldn't be there to welcome me; he planned to retire in two years' time.

Asked why, he replied that there were several reasons, but the best was that his late mother had started to suffer from senility at about the age he would then be. He had always thought his mother had continued to have too high a public profile for too long, with the result that the reputation she had amassed in a lifetime of work for the community was eroded by the early symptoms of Alzheimer's. Harold Wilson was wise. He retired in good time — intellect intact and with a wit as sharp as ever. Soon afterwards, he started to develop the first signs of Alzheimer's himself, the progression

## Wilson's fear of senility



**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
**Dr Thomas Stuttard**

of which may have been hastened by two major abdominal operations.

Alzheimer's tends to strike successive generations at almost the same age. Often, the difference in the age of onset between generations is no more than 18 months. The familial nature of Alzheimer's is more apparent in cases where it comes on earlier, in the fifties and sixties rather than the eighties.

Doctor magazine recently reported a review of Alzheimer's by Professor John Hardy, head of research into the disease at South Florida University. Professor Har-

dy had previously worked at St Mary's Hospital, London, where the team of which he was a member established that in some cases there was a genetic cause. Professor Hardy told the charity Research into Ageing that he is optimistic that by the end of the century drug therapy will be available to slow the disease process and prevent the build-up in the brain of amyloid deposits which, together with neurofibrillary tangles, are features of the disease. To the naked eye, the brain appears to become increasingly shrunken and wasted. These advances are

unlikely to help those already suffering from the early symptoms of the disease, but offer great hope to those now approaching late middle age.

Although memory loss is an early symptom, older people should be reassured that it is not always a prelude to Alzheimer's. The more common so-called benign memory loss can be trying, but is not associated with the progressive disintegration of the patient's personality, the loss of emotional depth, powers of reasoning and intelligence that are features of true Alzheimer's disease. Sometimes, before the patient's personality obviously begins to crumble, their distinctive personality traits can become more marked. The suspicious, depressed and the pugnacious

obsessional.

During his active life Harold Wilson was kindly, hard-working, polite and very amusing, and by all accounts remained a very nice man. He was a great family man and, even when Prime Minister, was prepared to take time off from Downing Street to visit his sons to help if there were a crisis.

## Sweet danger



**THERE** is never likely to be a Government health warning on a packet of liquorice sweets, although it has been recognised since 1970 that liquorice taken in quantities can cause high blood pressure.

The first reports of liquorice's effect on hypertension appeared in *Jama*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and referred only to its ingestion in large amounts. Research from Iceland has now shown that you do not have to be a glutton for liquorice for it to affect your blood pressure. Writing in the *Journal of Hypertension*, doctors have suggested that 50g a day for a month may cause an increase in the systolic blood pressure of five points (5mm/Hg); 100g a day and the pressure can go up by up to 19.

Raised blood pressure is not the only effect of liquorice. The initial *Jama* report also listed sudden cardiac arrest, congested cardiac failure and, more prosaically,

headaches as possible complications of heavy liquorice consumption.

Liquorice is obtained from the roots of either Spanish liquorice, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, or Russian liquorice, *G. glabra* (var. *glaberrima*). Its biochemical action, and hence its effect on the cardiovascular system and blood pressure, is related to sodium and water retention, along with the reduction of the levels of potassium in the blood.

## High pressure



**PROFESSOR** John Swales, from the University of Leicester, has recently reviewed treatment of high blood pressure in the journal *General Practitioner*. Professor Swales recommends that any patient with a borderline blood pressure should have it carefully monitored for three to six months. During this period, such risk factors as obesity, heavy alcohol intake and stoniness should be avoided

and salt intake restricted. If, despite these measures, the diastolic blood pressure, the lower of the two readings recorded by doctors, remains over 100, or the systolic pressure, the higher of the two readings, exceeds 160, treatment with drugs should be started. Professor Swales stresses that these criteria are not raised with age; if anything, they should be lowered as increasing age makes a stroke more likely and the need to control blood pressure more important. He suggests that patients over 60, with a diastolic blood pressure above 95, need active treatment.

Professor Swales summarises the use of ACE inhibitors in the treatment of hypertension, particularly when the raised blood pressure is associated with cardiac failure.

Elsewhere in the journal is a warning that diabetic patients taking ACE inhibitors should be on guard against hypoglycaemic attacks, stemming from blood sugar being allowed to fall too low. Evidence first published in *The Lancet* suggests these attacks may be much more common in diabetic patients taking ACE inhibitors.

# Secrets of a good night's sleep

**A** friend of mine has taken to walking his cocky baby round the block at lam. He often meets an elderly gentleman, fully dressed in collar and tie, who paces the pavement or reads his newspaper by street light. The other day they got chatting, and my friend asked him what kept him up at this time every night. "Well," he said, "you can't just lie there, can you?"

For every person who goes to a doctor with sleep problems, 99 suffer in silence. One-third of all adults and half of the over-65s suffer from insomnia — difficulty getting to sleep, waking early, or tossing and turning during the night. Not surprisingly, associated symptoms include daytime drowsiness, poor concentration, irritability and a twofold increase in the risk of serious road traffic accidents.

Doctors are widely believed to be unsympathetic to the complaint of insomnia, and the prescription of sleeping tablets, particularly benzodiazepines such as Valium, Temazepam, Ativan, Mogadon or Librium, has become distinctly unfashionable. But in their heyday, these drugs appeared on 30 million prescriptions a year in Britain. Addiction to benzodiazepines is now a well

**Dr Trisha Greenhalgh**  
on how to cure insomnia without resorting to pills

accepted phenomenon, yet it was once vigorously denied by doctors. In his 1992 book, *Power and Dependence*, Charles Medawar gives a chilling historical account of how alcohol, opiates, cocaine, chloral hydrate, bromides, barbiturates and benzodiazepines were each in turn hailed by the medical profession as safe, effective, and the "antidote" for dependence on its predecessors.

Surveys by *Therapeutic Life* and *Woman's Own* in the late 1980s uncovered more possible cases of benzodiazepine dependence in a few weeks than the official doctors' reporting system of Yellow Cards did in the previous three decades.

Now that the high risk of addiction is recognised, official recommendations limit new prescriptions for benzodiazepines to four weeks. But what are the options for in-

somnia sufferers in the post-benzodiazepine era? A report published recently by the Scottish Home and Health Office, *The Management of Anxiety and Insomnia*, presents the alternatives for doctors and their patients.

The first step is to make a detailed assessment of what the problem is. A thorough examination may reveal physical conditions which interfere with sleep, such as true (bronchial) asthma, breathlessness due to heart failure (cardiac asthma), obstructive sleep apnoea (intermittent blockage of the air passages by over-enlarged tonsils in a heavy snorer), pain (most commonly from an ulcer or back trouble), leg cramps, and bladder problems from kidney disease or diabetes. Parkinson's disease and depression are frequently missed in older people.

**O**nce underlying medical problems have been excluded, the treatment of insomnia relies crucially on the patient identifying what the symptoms are (difficulty getting to sleep or frequent waking), what the likely cause is (not feeling tired, racing or disturbing thoughts, noisy neighbours, etc) and what, if anything, makes things better. Although many insomniacs believe they have tried everything, a fresh look at lifestyle and bedtime rituals can sometimes identify habits which interfere with sleep.

An alcoholic or milky nightcap, for example, is more likely to keep you awake than send you to sleep, as are reading or watching TV in bed, and even leaving the light on and talking. The Good Sleep Guide, reproduced in *The Management of Anxiety and Insomnia*, recommends light exercise in the early evening but nothing strenuous or mentally demanding for 90 minutes before bed.

Late-night snacks should be small, and tea and coffee avoided. Problems with the physical environment, such as an uncomfortable bed or a stuffy bedroom, should be put right. If you are still awake after 20 minutes in bed, get up and leave the room, returning only when you are "sleepy tired".

Such strategies have been shown to improve symptoms significantly in 70 to 80 per cent of sufferers and are more effective than benzodiazepines after the initial four weeks. Another approach that has produced impressive results in research studies is sleep restriction therapy, in which the patient sets an alarm every day for a time which is earlier than his or her natural waking time. This must be continued

until the sleep pattern settles down; cat-napping during the day must be avoided.

Some personality types (conscientious, anxious, hard-working but disorganised) have a tendency to take daytime problems to bed with them. "Time management" techniques can help here, and should alleviate daytime anxiety as well. Before going to bed (but not in the bedroom), reflect on the day past, assess your achievements in relation to what you had hoped to get done, and make a list of unfinished tasks, allocating time for them but not doing the actual work. However, sleep specialist Professor Colin Shapiro of Toronto University says: "Sleep cannot be expected to make up for an undisciplined or overly taxing lifestyle; it is not infinitely flexible or restorative."

A new approach to insomnia uses the well-known but ill-understood finding that timed exposure to bright light for a restricted period every day reduces the time taken to fall asleep and improves the proportion of time spent in the different stages of sleep. In one recent study reported in an American medical journal, 16 hardened insomniacs all experienced longer and more refreshing sleep after just 12 days of fluorescent therapy.

**F**or those who have genuinely tried all non-drug methods and failed to achieve an adequate sleep pattern, benzodiazepines are still occasionally prescribed. If used less than once a week, the risk of addiction is minimal and short courses can break the vicious cycle of poor sleep leading to anxiety about sleep, leading to even poorer sleep.

A new class of hypnotic drugs, the cyclopyrrolones, which include zopiclone (Zimovane) and zolpidem, are said to promote sleep without disturbing the time spent in different sleep stages, although whether this property prevents or promotes long-term dependence remains to be seen. The manufacturers are playing safe and not recommending treatment for longer than four weeks; most doctors, mindful of the possibility of a postscript to Mr Medawar's book, are prescribing them cautiously, if at all.



People who sleep badly are more likely to suffer from daytime drowsiness, poor concentration and irritability, and to be involved in road accidents

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## Janet Daley



■ The Islington child abuse disaster dwarfs any Tory sleaze, and shows the dangers of "positive" discrimination

What a good joke it seemed to be at the time: the People's Republic of Islington. Ha, ha, ha. Remember those wonderful lobby groups — Hackney Gay Window Cleaners Against the Cuts? Ha, ha, ha. Well, nobody is laughing any more. That half-affectionate nickname, "loony left", suggested a silly but largely ineffectual gaggle of sand-box politicians, an Ealing comedy army of loopy activists and small-time fixers with grandiose ideological dreams. But apart from escalating rates bills and a dire influence on local education, the whole thing seemed more risible than sinister.

But while we all smirked, there were children whose lives were being destroyed. Because of its "positive bias" toward ethnic minorities, women and homosexuals, Islington council refused to countenance any suspicion of staff who were exploiting the children entrusted to them. During the 1980s, young people in the borough's care were apparently subjected to organised abuse by paedophiles and pimps. Girls and boys were coerced into prostitution, drug use and violent sexual activity.

Certain minorities apparently could not be investigated

The managers under whom these crimes were committed could not control such activity because the council's political ethos would not permit any accusations against members of certain minorities.

Forget any idea that this see-no-evil policy was being enforced only in borough backrooms — that no high-profile Labour politician would have been complicit with such complacency. When the London *Evening Standard* exposed Islington's child-abuse rackets in 1992, none other than Margaret Hodge — then the leader of Islington Labour Council — declared the charges to be outrageous. Instead of ordering an investigation into the morass, Mrs Hodge issued a statement that was little more than a shriek of abuse at the newspaper: "...a sensationalist piece of gutter journalism". Those managers who believed that they would not be supported in any attempt to clean up Islington child-care obviously had a sound understanding of their council's political priorities.

Time moves on. Mrs Hodge is now MP for Barking. As one of Tony Blair's moderate modernisers, she would not any longer leap to the defence of a system that put the interests of minority sexual orientation above the protection of children. If you think this remark unfair, note that the *White Report*, which has finally lifted the lid on all this, states that "Islington's positive bias toward certain groups" precluded any "strong ethos" of protecting children at risk.

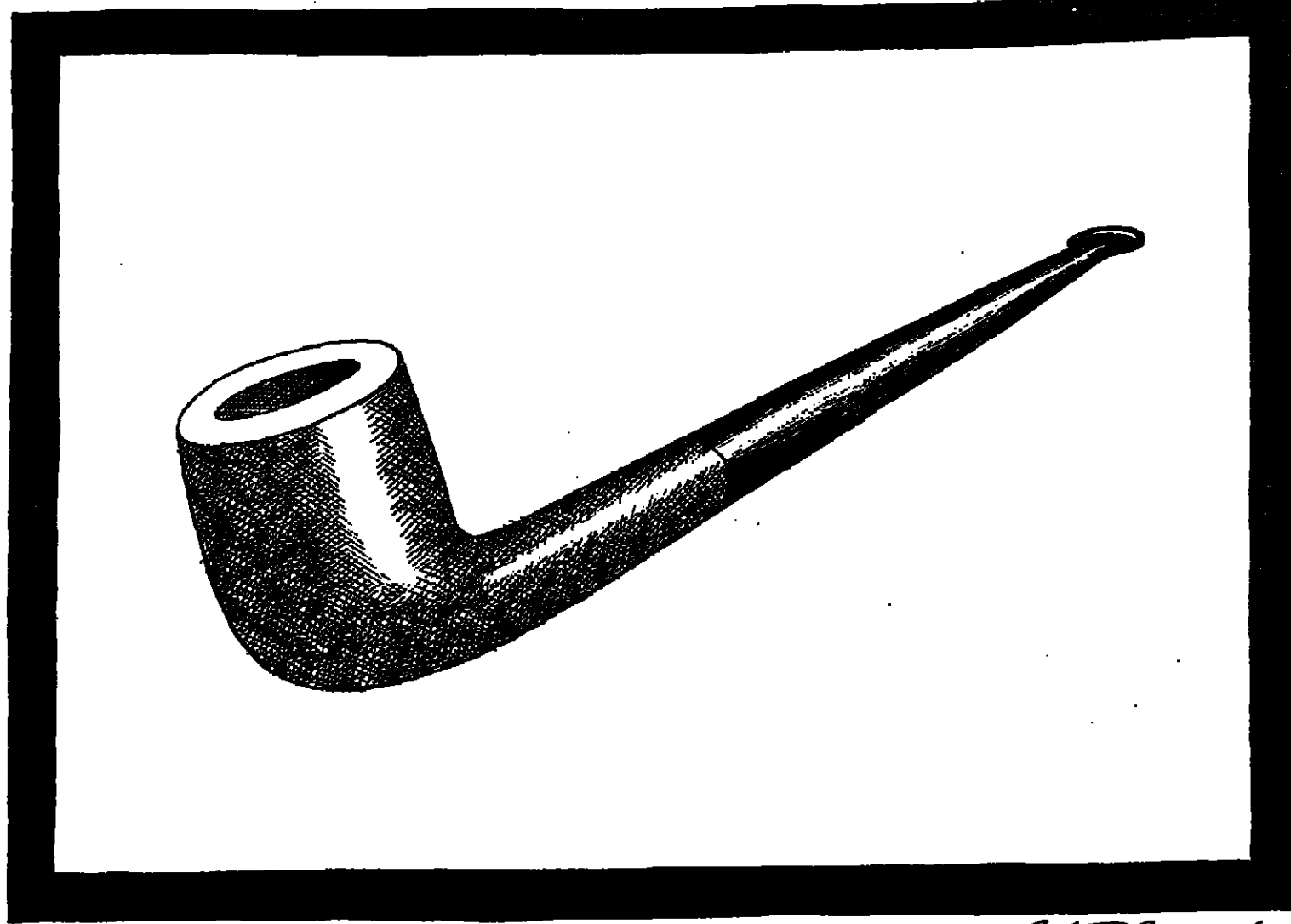
Mrs Hodge has commented with some pride in recent interviews that many of the measures that were labelled "loony" when first enacted by Islington council — like the "equal opportunities" employment rules which the White report shows to have been so misused — are now standard procedure in the public services. Certainly they have become an accepted part of Labour Party policy.

As I write, Mrs Hodge has responded to the White revelations with a statement saying that she has not yet read the report and therefore cannot comment on it. I await her considered opinion with great interest, since she presided over a scandal of such dimensions as to make all the Tory sleaze stories of recent years seem ludicrously trivial. That she did so unknowingly does not absolve her from responsibility. Indeed, her demonstrable ignorance of the facts would have made it all the more incumbent upon her to launch a proper investigation. The very people who have been so forthcoming to Ian White for the purposes of this report would presumably have been happy to inform her of the truth had she asked.

There is a new political generation controlling Islington now, which is anxious to distance itself from the bad old days. But even if an unwholesome hegemony has been broken up, some of its chief participants have become better ensconced than ever within the bosom of "new" Labour.

And what of that philosophy of positive discrimination which, as Mrs Hodge has observed, is now so widely disseminated? What did the damage to Islington was the favourable discretion shown to gays and racial minorities, whose personal privacy was regarded as sacrosanct. Any allegations made against them were assumed either to result from prejudice or, worse, were not followed up for fear of evoking charges of prejudice. Gay staff were exempted from any investigation which could be interpreted as casting aspersions on their motives.

This differential treatment is a form of discrimination that is much more difficult to legislate against than hiring on a quota system — which is, in fact, illegal. So where do Mrs Hodge and her leader, Tony Blair, stand now? As Labour imposes women-only shortlists, is it likely to admit that positive discrimination of any kind is wrong? That, however pure its intentions, it is simply favouritism by another name? Will they now agree that when merit ceases to be the ground for choosing employees, the door is opened to corruption of the worst possible kind?



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## Great expectations

Wilson was brilliant at winning power, but didn't know what to do with it

Wilson was not the first democratic politician — nor will he be the last — who knew how to win power, but did not know what to do with it when he got it. Whatever his failings as a Prime Minister, he was the most skilful party leader the Labour Party has ever had, winning four out of the five elections he contested. In this century, only Margaret Thatcher, who never lost an election, and Stanley Baldwin, who can also claim to have won four elections (if one counts the National Government victory in 1931), have been equally successful in the party role. Yet Harold Wilson's character was much closer to Baldwin's than to Thatcher's. She made historic changes to policy; like Baldwin, Wilson has left behind little that proved permanent.

When Hugh Gaitskill died, early in 1963, there were three candidates for the leadership of the Labour Party: Harold Wilson, George Brown and James Callaghan. Wilson, though never very left-wing, had the support of that wing of the party; George Brown, who lost support because he was so drunken and tempestuous, was still a serious political figure with strong powers of judgment; James Callaghan appealed to the centre and to the senior members of the parliamentary party, but never had enough support to come close to winning. John Strachey was one of James Callaghan's supporters. I remember him saying, as I saw him in the lift, "Harold Wilson will win the leadership and will probably win the election, but it will prove to be a disaster for the Labour Party and the country as well."

In 1963-64, Wilson proved to be a superb Leader of the Opposition, technically better at that job than anyone else since the war, or perhaps since Gladstone. He was a brilliant debater, he had always had a great command of fact, and had acquired a dry skill in using political wit. Yet his vital achievement was not in debate, but in the orchestration of two powerful myths, in which most people, even Conservatives, were persuaded to believe. The first was that the Macmillan Conservatives were hopelessly out of date, scandalously corrupt, class-ridden and ineffective. The Macmillan Government had indeed run out of ideas. Wilson turned its fatigue into a nationwide myth of impotence and exhaustion.

The other myth was that Labour

thoroughly understood the new technology and would make Britain competitive with the most advanced of the world's economies. By 1963, Britain had been left behind by Germany and Japan, and was far behind America. Wilson won the 1964 election by persuading the electorate that the Labour Party would put this right. By the mid 1960s Labour was the natural party for scientists and young technocrats: by appealing to them, Wilson convinced a much wider audience.

I was taken in with the rest. I remember arranging a lunch for him to meet Sir Leon Bagrit, the father of the British computer industry, who delivered the 1965 Reith Lectures on *The Age of Automation*. Both Bagrit and I were impressed by Harold Wilson's knowledge of the subject and by his eagerness to learn more. No doubt we were both misled, but I believe that Wilson had convinced himself that he could and would regenerate Britain by encouraging new technology.

In the event, he did amazingly little about it. If I had been taken in, I was almost immediately disillusioned. The appointment of Frank Cousins as Minister for Industry in the first 1964 Government showed that Wilson could not be serious about technological development. No one less suitable for that purpose than Frank Cousins could have been found; the appointment was merely a manoeuvre to keep the support of left-wing trade unions. Yet this profound failure of purpose was very damaging to Wilson himself. Despite a large majority in 1966, he had raised expectations far beyond anything he could deliver, and the Labour Party has paid for it for 30 years.

My next experience of Harold Wilson was also disillusioning. In the summer of 1966, Roy Thomson was negotiating to buy *The Times*. The Labour Government had to decide whether or not to refer the purchase to the Monopolies Commission. Roy Thomson had already decided that he would make Denis Hamilton the

chairman of Times Newspapers, Harold Evans Editor of *The Sunday Times* and me Editor of *The Times*. Harold Wilson invited us all down to Chequers for the night — Roy Thomson sensibly went home to his own bed — to decide whether to approve the purchase.

At dinner, Harold Wilson raised the question of David Wood, the excellent political correspondent of *The Times*, who had recently written some perfectly accurate stories which the Government had not liked. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that *The Times* would find a more sympathetic correspondent. There was at least a hint that this might be a condition of approval. Roy Thomson looked at his blue and white Chequers plate; Denis Hamilton looked at his

plate. I looked at my plate. I can remember thinking that if Wilson thought that silence gave consent, the consequences would be on him. We passed to the next subject, Denis. Harold and I stayed up late that night listening to stories about the Prime Minister's brilliant successes in the Rhodesian negotiations. After I went to bed at last, I was to be awakened in the middle of the night by the leaking of the hot-water bottle in what had once been Harold Macmillan's four-poster. Thus was the sale of *The Times* given official approval. David Wood remained our political correspondent for many years.

That was not one of the better moments. There were other times when I found Wilson's fiftieth birthday strangely endearing. In the late 1960s I had an interview with him in the Cabinet rooms. At the time, his Cabinet was much criticised because several of its members were thought to be below Cabinet quality. Most of them, as I remember, were called "Fred". I asked Harold Wilson why he kept all the Freds in office. "You have to remember," he replied, "that the weakest members of my Cabinet are those who are most loyal to me." In the late 1960s, Harold Wilson did make a serious attempt to solve one of the worst of Britain's economic

problems. In 1968 he appointed Barbara Castle, then as now a real fighter, as Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity. She decided, with great courage, to tackle the issue of trade union reform. She published a White Paper, *In Place of Strife*. Every left-wing reactionary in the trade union movement was determined to stop her. James Callaghan, then Home Secretary, intrigued against her. Harold Wilson supported her, but he was no Margaret Thatcher, and his support was not sustained. He always put party unity first.

Undoubtedly, Wilson expected to win the general election of June 1970. He was far ahead in the polls; indeed the last poll we published in *The Times* forecast a Labour majority of over 150. The Conservative victory under Ted Heath came as a shattering blow to him, and it permanently undermined Harold Wilson's self-confidence. Having been a most formidable Leader of the Opposition, in 1963-64, he seemed to hold little more than a watching brief in the period 1970-74.

In the two elections of 1974, he was probably surprised to win the first but disappointed not to have a larger majority in the second. He came back to office in 1974 ill-prepared. He had no answer to the central economic issue of world inflation. He probably did not even believe in the nationalisation proposals which were the most controversial elements in the Labour programme. He presided over rather than led the Labour Government for a couple of years, and retired in 1976 with every sign of relief. After the defeat of 1970, the spring had gone out of him. In his retirement he suffered a very long period of deteriorating health, for which there was universal sympathy.

Even on the day after his death, one has to speak the truth as one sees it about a Prime Minister. Wilson was an intelligent and kindly man. He meant well by people. He was in his earlier days a formidable Leader of the Opposition and was always a very skilful parliamentarian and party leader. But the 15 years of Labour predominance which he won after 1964 were a time when Britain's problems were largely evaded or deferred; the opportunities were missed. The country paid the price for the defects of an amiable and clever man.

## Labour's brightest and best

Gerald Kaufman

remembers

Harold Wilson

Harold Wilson was the most successful and the most charismatic leader in the Labour Party's history. He won four elections (more than any other Prime Minister in modern times), gained Labour 11 of its total of 20 years in power, and in his heyday from 1963 to 1966 was almost worshipped by millions of admirers and feared by political opponents both inside and outside his own party.

I saw Wilson nearly every day for five years as his political press adviser at No 10. I walked with him into No 10 when, after 44 months in the wilderness, he regained office in March 1974 ("I still can't believe it!" he marvelled to me, as we watched on the TV news his resumption of the office). I served in his 1974 Government, and as junior minister in charge of the government car service I was indirectly apprised of his intention to retire by a memo instructing me to make a car and driver available to all former prime ministers.

He was the nicest man I ever knew, and the cleverest. He had the amazing ability to detach his mind from the most serious problems to deal with a trivial difficulty. Though always wary of plotters inside his Cabinet, he was broad-minded and cunning enough to promote his most dangerous critics and most threatening rivals, like Roy Jenkins and Jim Callaghan.

To the very few of us whom he trusted totally, he was at once generous and brutal. He listened carefully to advice, sometimes took it and sometimes rejected it, and only snarled when he had rejected advice (such as not to put David Owen in his Government) which he later accepted had been right.

While exceptionally sophisticated politically, with a solution for every problem large and small (for example, his inspired decision to remove Tony Benn from the Department of Industry by putting him in the Department of Energy which, as it dealt entirely with nationalised industries, Benn could not possibly refuse), he was a simple man personally. He was not interested in food, being content with a steak drowned in HP sauce.

He was not pretentious culturally, though he understood the value of the arts and did more for them than any Prime Minister before or since. He loved Gilbert and Sullivan and enjoyed singing hymns with his wife, Mary. When he did light upon something more highbrow which he enjoyed he felt he had to share it (President Nixon, on a visit, was probably bewildered to be taken to see Nicol Williamson's *Hamlet*).

In some ways he was unrealistic. He was convinced that, given the chance, he could solve the Vietnam problem, even sending a junior minister on a strange and fruitless mission to Hanoi. He annoyed many members of the party by refusing to condemn President Johnson's bombing of North Vietnam, yet annoyed Johnson even more by refusing to send even a battalion of British bagpipers to Vietnam.

He made his full share of mistakes, of which the most serious was his failure to devalue the pound in October 1964 or July 1966 and then, on devaluing it in November 1967, making his notorious "Pound in your pocket" television broadcast, which none of his advisers, including me, had the intelligence to warn him against. Badly advised as to the chances of getting it through the Commons, he abandoned a reform of trade union law that might, if implemented, have kept both Heath and Thatcher out of Downing Street.

Yet he had many successes. He fostered British industry and exports, and regenerated derelict areas by his regional policies. He was responsible for a huge and high-quality housing programme. He was the only Prime Minister to spend more on education than defence. He created one of the two lasting monuments to socialism, the Open University (the other being the health service).

Helped by his brilliant political secretary, Marcia Williams, he was a marvellous constituency MP in Hutton, holding regular surgeries at local Labour clubs. He was superb at informal party functions, chatting casually with members and putting the most bashful at their ease. At his peak he could dominate the Commons with irrevocable wit. He shunned speechwriters, yet after staring as one of the dreariest speakers around, he became a master of oratory and repartee who could have huge audiences roaring with enthusiasm, and floor hecklers (whose interventions he sometimes deliberately provoked) with deadly impromptu quips.

After writing a series of dull memoirs himself, in his later years he began to be reassessed at his true worth, particularly in Ben Pimlott's biography. Many will never forget his masterly appearances on TV, smoking the pipe that became his symbol (and which he really did smoke in private). He was the best thing that ever happened to the Labour Party, and millions of his fellow citizens led more comfortable and more fulfilled lives as a result.

## College prize

ONE OF THE most cherished university posts in Britain has been accepted by Michael Beloff, QC, a deputy High Court judge. Beloff, 53, will take over next summer as President of Trinity College, Oxford, from Sir John Burgh, formerly Director-General of the British Council.

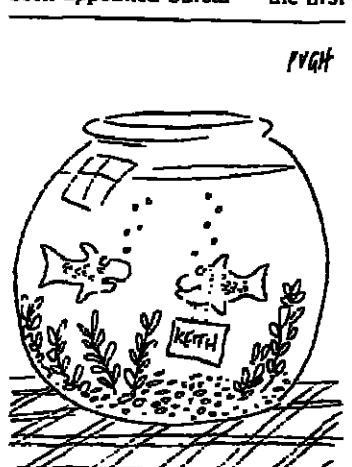
Beloff is joint head of the Gray's Inn chambers where Tony Blair's wife Cherie Booth works. He defended Gillian Telford in her unsuccessful libel action against *The Sun*; he is also counsel to Mohamed Al Fayed and his brother Ali, who are bidding for British citizenship; and he helped to secure Tottenham Hotspur's readmission to the FA Cup.

As a barrister, he is said to earn up to £1 million a year, but yesterday he pronounced himself "very pleased" with his new position. "By the time I take up the appointment, I will have had 15 strenuous years as a QC. I am looking forward to a change of pace, although I will still be able, if time allows, to practise a little law." Educated at Eton and Magdalen, Beloff lectured in law at Trinity for two years. "I've always been an Oxford man," he said. "And I've

always kept a house there." It may no longer be needed: the President's Lodge, set in Trinity's lawns and gardens, is one of the most desirable homes in Oxford.

## Co-ed

THERE is new blood at Uppingham School: Sarah Buxton has been appointed bursar — the first



"This is ridiculous — you don't need an ID card"

woman to hold such a post in a leading boys' public school. "Actually it's bedlam here at the moment," says Buxton, 35. "We're preparing for speech day this weekend and it's a bit like a military campaign."

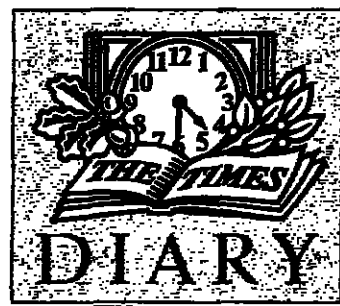
After stints with accountants Ernst & Young, PA Consulting and Guinness Brewing, she is to end the commercial "health" of Uppingham while continuing to turn out distinguished pupils.

In the past, the school has nurtured the talents of Boris Karloff; the Heritage Secretary, Stephen Dorrell; and Stephen Fry, whom she remembers as a fellow student at Cambridge. "But he's hardly a recommendation," says Buxton.

## Hit wicket

A DELICATE problem has arisen for John Redwood, the dry Welsh Secretary. As a cricket buff and the only senior minister to play regularly, he has signed up for the Lords & Commons cricket team's three-day visit to Holland next month to play their Dutch counterparts.

Now he has learnt that Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, is sponsoring the trip. "He's not sure what to do," says a colleague. "Should he go, but pay his own way? Cancel? Or just go like



the others and declare it in the register?"

As the firm has contributed to the team's costs before, other cricketers MPs playing are not fretting about it. But some players wonder if Redwood's inclusion in the trip is wise. In a match last week, he was declared out after he hit his own wicket — inauspicious for any minister.

## Track record

HAROLD WILSON's leadership skills were apparent from an early age. His childhood friend Harold Ainley, aged 80, claims he was the driving force behind Cub Scout adventures. While Wilson's career took him from Huddersfield to Downing Street, Ainley became a dispensing chemist's assistant in the Yorkshire town.

Their friendship was forged at the local Hornby model railway club and Minsbridge Cub Scouts. "We were Hornby and Meccano fanatics. Harold had a truck, and we used to spend all our Christmas money extending it," recalls Ainley. "He was a patrol leader and later a King's Scout. We never used to put stones or bottles of cold water down his bed like we did others." One defining moment came on a Scouts' trip to Holland. "We had a week over there, connected with Esperanto. Harold did learn a bit of it, but the dumb 'uns like me didn't, of course."

## Bath time

THE GRIZZLED visage of Bob Geldof greeted partygoers at a west London hotel on Tuesday night, where Marie Helvin was entertaining guests for the launch of her book of health tips, *Bodypure*. Geldof announced that he too was thinking of cashing in on the fashion bandwagon. "I might launch a body perfume. I'd call it 'Sink,'" he said. Fellow reveller Robert Sangster thought this a sound idea: "He certainly looks as if he could do with body perfume. In fact he looks as if he has a bath only once a month." Sangster was well grounded in comparison. "I have a bath a day — I get into my



Geldof with Marie Helvin

wife's every morning after she's finished with it."

● Commuters on the London Underground should have their wits about them this morning. One thousand schoolboys will be swarming onto the Tube. Latimer Upper School (alumni: Hugh Grant, Mel Smith and Alan Rickman) has chartered a train to ferry pupils to St Paul's Cathedral for a centenary Founder's Day service.

P.H.S





## WILSON, MAJOR AND BLAIR

The classical lessons of a consummate party manager

Great prime ministers are great by virtue of their powers of leadership and their commanding vision, not by their party management skills. It was Harold Wilson's tragedy that he was a great party manager and a decent man but not a great Prime Minister in the style of Lloyd George, Winston Churchill or Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Wilson held his party together and won four election victories through charm, energy and an unequalled mastery of the black political arts in which he far outstripped his opponents, both within and without his party. Mr Wilson was a fine advertisement for the upward social mobility of 20th-century Britain, coming from humble origins to become a youthful Labour minister and, unexpectedly, leader of his party and Prime Minister. But he could only paper over the cracks in Labour, leaving its divisions on the great issues of the day — especially Europe — unresolved. He lived in constant fear that, despite his electoral successes, colleagues were plotting to overthrow him. Friends of another decent man, John Major, will have been reminded of the similarities yesterday.

Political commentators will inevitably make comparisons between Mr Wilson's great achievement in winning office after 13 years of Conservative rule and the prospects of the current Leader of the Opposition in ending another prolonged era of Tory Government. Both men achieved their eminence by the sadly premature deaths of their predecessors, Hugh Gaitskill and John Smith respectively. We hope for Tony Blair's sake as well as our own that his programme does not betray, in like manner, his early promise.

It is also worth reflecting upon the

Conservative Party's present, unquiet period of office and the remarkable ties which bind Mr Wilson and Mr Major. The latter can also be congratulated for his rise from obscurity. But neither Prime Minister was or is a man of fierce conviction. On the value of sterling both men followed the orthodoxies of their day and, in consequence, suffered a crisis of economic credibility after forced devaluations in 1967 and 1992. Never mind that the policies of the Opposition were no more intelligent than their own: ultimately, an occupant of No 10 cannot escape responsibility for his Government.

On Europe neither Mr Wilson nor Mr Major found it easy to unite their parties. In contrast to Mr Heath's certainty about the value of entering the European Community, Mr Wilson offered an uneasy compromise. In contrast to Mr Heath and (contrariwise) Baroness Thatcher, Mr Major still offers shifting compromises. Perhaps both men were given a task beyond the capacity of even the best party manager. Certainly Mr Major will struggle, like Mr Wilson, to leave his successor a party which can rally behind a united position on Europe.

We are left with the observations of Mr Wilson's biographer, Ben Pimlott. "When Labour did well, Wilson received much of the credit. It was natural, perhaps even fair, that when it did badly, he should get the blame. It was also inevitable that his enemies should take heart. In the Tea Room and in rumour-filled newspaper offices, innumerable scenarios for the Prime Minister's forced departure were painted in vivid colours. 'We discussed the mechanics of how he might be replaced endlessly' recalls William Rodgers, then a junior minister. None of the schemes came to anything."

## QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY

The ID card issue should never have been touched

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has wisely refrained from favouring any one of the six options on identity cards set out in yesterday's Green Paper. Having raised this delicate issue, he will find enemies around every corner. Opponents of any form of national ID card are as passionate as proponents of the strongest option, the compulsory card. Whatever Mr Howard now decides to do, he will incur the wrath of a substantial section of the population, many of whom are his own supporters.

The ID card argument is by no means a neat party political one. Right-wing libertarians vie with right-wing authoritarians in the vociferousness of their views. This is a policy on which Mr Howard need never have embarked — it is a "solution" for which there is no corresponding problem. He is now bound to enrage one or other of the constituencies within his own party which have traditionally managed to coexist in relative peace.

It is hard, therefore, to understand why the Government touched the issue of ID cards at all. It is not as if there would be great public expenditure savings. Of the Green Paper's proposed options, the only one that might aid the police would be the toughest, a compulsory ID card which would have to be produced on demand. Even then, the most serious villains — terrorists and organised criminals — would be the most likely to be able to obtain forged cards, giving themselves a spurious respectability which might actually hamper police investigations.

Such cards would be expensive to issue: the Home Office's conservative estimate is £600 million, and that excludes the costs of

enforcement and continuing administration. Each citizen would have to go through an onerous procedure to prove his or her identity, similar to that needed for obtaining a passport. This would presumably have to be repeated for the card to be renewed or replaced. Most offensive, though, would be the requirement to carry the card at all times. One of the great freedoms that Britons possess as citizens of an island nation is to go about their peaceful business without having to account for their existence to any authority.

A voluntary card would have no obvious benefits in the fight against crime. But it would soon become compulsory in all but name. This has happened in France, for example, where every petty bureaucratic demand to see an ID card. Even the Green Paper admits that in countries where cards are voluntary, "the need to prove identity for many official purposes makes holding an identity card a necessity". Britons may be happy to produce a driving licence for the purposes of driving a car, or a credit card in order to buy goods, but they are likely to recoil from having to carry a piece of plastic merely in order to exist within the law.

It was during and after the last war that the last experiment with ID cards was made. Wartime cards, which were compulsory, were continued into peacetime to the fury of law-abiding citizens. Eventually, after a respectable middle-class man refused to produce his papers to the police because he had done no wrong, a public uprising forced the Government of the day to abolish ID cards. This Government has surely caused enough fury in Middle England already not to risk provoking any more.

## THE FURORE OF THE GARDEN

Another institution in need of weeding, mulch and pruning

The Chelsea Flower Show opens to the public today. So prudent commuters who travel anywhere near the Embankment should allow longer for their journeys. Tomorrow the Spm bell rings for bedlam, when exhibitors have to sell off their wares for whatever they will fetch before closing-time. Miraculously cured invalids have been observed pushing their wheelchairs loaded down with plants, and there is no need to ask the way to Sloane Square station. Just follow Birmam Wood and the spoor of delphinium petals.

The oldest and most famous flower show brings an endearing breath of the garden centre into the heart of London. Like the Boat Race and the Cup Final it is a fixed point in the London Season. And horticulture being even more of a national sport than university rowing or football, it offers more drama than either. There is something new for everybody, from the cultivator of the window-box to the travelling collector of stately gardens.

This year is notable for the Dig for Victory display demonstrating wartime husbandry (and renamed WID or "Wop It Down" for Victory 50 years ago). The colours of the flowers seem Post-Modernist Op Art rather than Laura Ashley pastels, and it is possible to walk for a quarter of a mile between machinery and garden furniture without ever setting eye on a living plant.

Like such other Victorian institutions as the Rugby Football Union and the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, the Royal Horticultural Society combines high professionalism with quaint amateurism in its administration. Its plants and ism in its administration. Its plants and ism in its administration. Its plants and ism in its administration.

Flower Show is run with D-Day precision. And yesterday the RHS announced a £25-million plan to develop its garden centre at Wisley. Yet at the same time the old fuchsias who run it regard democracy for their 180,000 members with as much dismay and distaste as their former president, the Prince Consort, would have done. Their plan to remove their Lindley Library, the greatest horticultural and botanical collections in the world, from Pimlico to Wisley was announced as a *fait accompli*. This little-known public library indeed needs bigger and better quarters for its valuable collections. But like the Chelsea Flower Show, it should be in London rather than a Surrey suburb.

The world has moved on since Prince Albert died, and members of the RHS are articulate and opinionated gardeners of Middle England, unlikely to throw in the towel just because they are told to. Such was the indignation aroused by the plan to move the Lindley Library to Wisley that Sir Stephen Gibson has been commissioned to prepare a report on the options. These include taking over the Rochester Row police station, a stone's throw from the present library and about to be decommissioned. This would provide ample room for the RHS collections. There could also be an acre of roof garden, and space for a London seed bank with stocks from commercial merchants and scientific institutions.

Gibson will report in July. There must then be a postal ballot of RHS members, with the council being bound by rather than just "taking into account" their votes. National institutions, like plants, must continually adapt to the environment or die.

## Statue for Wilde in theatreland

From Mr Jeremy Isaacs and others

Sir, Oscar Wilde, the writer and the man, deserves a prominent public memorial in London, in addition to the window panel recently inscribed in Westminster Abbey (report, February 15). We, the undersigned, announce, on the anniversary of his conviction, that we propose to put up a statue to him in London's theatreland. It will be erected in 1997, to mark the centenary of his release from jail.

By his language and wit, his ideas and his demeanour, Wilde commands our admiration and our gratitude. His work delights generation after generation. We seek to honour him by a visual memorial, and we have the sympathetic encouragement of Westminster City Council, as we prepare to seek planning permission from them.

When we have formal permission for a site, and have chosen a sculptor, a public appeal for funds will be launched.

Yours faithfully,

JEREMY ISAACS,

COLIN AMERY,

KENNETH BAKER,

JUDI DENCH,

RICHARD EYRE,

MICHAEL FOOT,

GREY GOWRIE,

SEAMUS HEANEY,

MERLIN HOLLAND,

NICHOLAS HYTNER,

IAN MCKELLEN,

MATTHEW PARRIS,

SIMON SAINSBURY,

ST JOHN OF FAWLEY,

ANTHONY SMITH,

MAGGIE SMITH,

The Monument Trust,

9 Red Lion Court, EC4,

May 24.

## Prayers for the dead

From the Reverend J. C. Edwards, SJ

Sir, Christians (mostly Catholics) who pray for the dead believe, as Mr Spenser seems to (May 17), that "the eternal destiny of the departed is fixed at the moment of death". But they think that among those who are saved may be some (perhaps most of us) who need to re-grow some of the spiritual mutilations they may have inflicted on themselves in this life, before they can enjoy God as he wants them to.

We think this re-growing (or purification) takes place through the co-operation of the whole Church. So since we can't be certain that Hitler, or anybody else, that is, damned, we could pray for him.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. EDWARDS,

114 Mount Street, W1,

May 18.

From the Chaplain of Millfield

Sir, Your recent correspondence reminds me of Lord Shaftesbury's reflection on the evening of his wife's death that it was the first time he had been unable to pray with her. He might have been comforted had he remembered that the Apostles' Creed professes belief in the *communion of saints*, the unity of the church on earth with the church beyond the grave. There is a subtle difference between prayers for the dead and prayers with the dead. The latter is fully consistent with an evangelical understanding of the atonement.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON BLOXAM-ROSE,

Orchard Leigh, Butleigh Road,

Street, Somerset,

May 18.

From the Reverend Canon Peter Brett

Sir, Prayer is an expression of care. Why should we cease to care because a human body becomes unable to do its job as the embodiment of a person? I have seen many people through the moment of their "death" and not one was good enough for heaven or bad enough for hell. What a moment for love and care to dry up!

Yours faithfully,

PETER BRETT,

22 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent,

May 17.

## Events beyond recall

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Baroness Cox is one of the large number of fairly senior citizens who bemoan the fact that a significant proportion of children aged 11 to 14 do not know who Winston Churchill was and are ignorant of the Holocaust (report, May 23).

I wonder how many 11 to 14-year-olds would have known in, say, 1939, who Lloyd George was or had heard of the Armenian massacres. Can we not remember from our childhood how infinitely remote to us were events all of half a century earlier (and less), even if they were included in the syllabus for 11 to 14-year-olds (by no means always the case)?

We are constantly shocked by what children have apparently not been taught: yet often it is knowledge that we ourselves acquired only at a later stage.

Yours faithfully,

RALPH BLUMENAU,

111 Princes House,

50 Kensington Park Road, W11,

May 23.

Business letters, page 29  
Sports letters, page 42

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Nolan's constraints on body politic

From Mr Philip Allott

Sir, It would be interesting to know whether the Government's legal advisers considered the question of whether it was lawful for the executive branch of government to ask Lord Nolan's committee (letters, May 17, 22) to consider and make recommendations concerning the behaviour of Members of Parliament. It is also to be hoped that they will have considered the lawfulness of setting up a body external to the House of Commons to pass judgment on such behaviour.

The relevant legal provision is the ninth of the "ancient rights and liberties" of Parliament declared in the Bill of Rights Act of 1689 (New Style): That the freedom of speech, and debates or proceedings in parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of parliament.

The institutional independence of the House of Commons is at the root of the constitutional order of this country.

Yours truly,

PHILIP ALLOTT,

Trinity College,

Cambridge,

May 23.

From Mr M. E. Gaisford

Sir, I believe that until comparatively recently the respect and trust enjoyed by Members of Parliament were maintained largely by public ignorance of their activities. This respect has now been very seriously undermined by relentless media exposure of their individual failings and venality; and the response to the Nolan committee's recommendations by a significant section of the Conservative Party has only served to increase the public distrust.

Mr Enoch Powell ("There's no legislating for honour", May 19) offers no specific alternative to Nolan but appears to believe that Parliament should be allowed to wash its own dirty linen in private. I am certain that this would be totally unacceptable to the public — whose belief and trust in the essential integrity of government is absolutely vital for a healthy democracy.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL GAISFORD,

Amberley, Southern Lane,

Sudbrooke, Lincoln,

May 21.

From Dr Patricia A. Hind

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("MPs need proper jobs", May 17) advocates the broadening of MPs' representational interests beyond simple geography. He points out that MPs have vocational and other loyalties, citing as examples that "lawyers care about the law, farmers about agriculture, women MPs about women".

It is perhaps fortunate that the latter do care. Mr Jenkins clearly reveals the still-entrenched male attitude in which the female of the species is not perceived as contributing on an equal footing to the "real" world of the marketplace.

Luckily, most women MPs are perfectly capable of doing a job outside

## Labour and judges

From Mr Paul Boateng, MP for Brent South (Labour)

Sir, Let me, before any other members of the Legal Premier League (Retired) are tempted to enter the fray, set the record straight on Labour's alleged intention to introduce a "league table of bad judges" (reports, May 16 and 17).

Labour has no such plans. The existing constitutional arrangements in relation to the judiciary will remain intact. We do, however, as but one part of a far-reaching package of reforms of our legal system, designed to put the consumer rather than the profession at its heart, intend to introduce a new, independent, lay element into the process in the form of a Judicial Appointments and Training Commission.

## Child-sex tourists

From Mrs Jean Clark and the Reverend Graham St-John Willey

Sir, Our organisations welcome your report (May 16) that senior detectives at Scotland Yard's Paedophile and Child Pornography Unit support the concept that legislation is needed to combat the sexual exploitation of children abroad.

We have been promoting an early day motion (Children in Prostitution and Pornography) in the House of Commons since 1992, calling for the legislation which Lord Hylton's Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill seeks to introduce. Since November 4, 1992, it has received the support of 346 MPs from all parties. No other early day motion on a child welfare issue has ever received such a measure of support.

Tough new legislation is needed against those who exploit children for the sexual gratification of adults, for they are guilty of a crime against humanity.

It is an international disgrace that the UK should be one of the few developed countries whose government is still opposed to the introduction of such legislation.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## Coach crashes and safety barriers

From Mr S. H. Ogden

Sir, This latest motorway tragedy is a reminder of another case, that of the American tourist coach that went over a "safety barrier" on the M2 (report, November 11, 1993), and rolled down an embankment killing ten people.

Yesterday's crash also involved a coach, an embankment, and this time, seemingly, no barrier. On raised stretches of motorway it is essential that out-of-control vehicles are kept on the road. If there had been efficient barriers in these accidents, casualties might have been greatly reduced.

Campaigns for compulsory seatbelts should not divert public attention from the possibility that motorway barriers are poorly designed, sited and installed.

Yours faithfully,

S. H. OGDEN,

7 Stephen Close, Orpington, Kent,

May 24.

## UNA anniversary

From Lord Richard, QC, and others

Sir, As we commemorate this year the fifth anniversary of the end of World War II, with its exposure at Auschwitz, Belsen, Dachau and elsewhere, of the very worst that human beings can inflict on each other, and of the founding of the United Nations, with the great principles enshrined in its Charter, we should not overlook the fifth birthday of the United Nations Association (UNA).

Its founder members, largely drawn from the ranks of the League of Nations Union, met in London on May 24, 1945, to form UNA. Underpinned by the ultimate failure of the League of Nations and, like the drafters of the UN Charter in San Francisco, determined to try again to make warfare and injustice things of the past, this devoted group of people have, over the last 50 years, continued their efforts to get successive governments more fully to live up to their international obligations under the UN Charter.

We have, as parliamentarians, been involved in various ways with UNA in their work. We much appreciate their involvement, willingly acknowledge the contribution which they have so ceaselessly made, wish them well in the future and pledge our continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

IVOR RICHARD,

DAVID ELIS-THOMAS,

MIKE GAPES,

EMMA NICHOLSON,

DAVID STEEL,

CYRIL D. TOWNSEND,

Palace of Westminster,

May 23.

## Burma appeal

From Mr Nicholas Greenwood

Sir, Today you carry a report by James Pringle from Payathorn, Burma, entitled "Burmese junta toughens stance on opposition as investment flows in". Saturday, May 27, marks the fifth anniversary of the general elections in Burma which the National League for Democracy won with a massive majority of 81 per cent.

Five years on, with the opposition crushed and the population cowed into submission, the illegitimate regime continues to rule with heinous brutality.

Is it not time that both the Western and South-east Asian nations responded with something rather more effective than tacit condemnation while they continue with their policy of "constructive engagement"?

Yours sincerely,

NICHOLAS GREENWOOD,

Right Now Books & Tours (Burma),

36c Sisters Avenue, SW11,

May 23.

## Universities league

From Mr T. G. Hervey

Sir, Mr Bowater (letter, May 23) is concerned because his Cambridge degree was considered by a German university to be "only equivalent to a German polytechnic degree".

Perhaps he will take some comfort from the fact that when I applied to join Middle Temple and inquired of the Council of Legal Education about examination exemptions based on my Harvard Law School degree (which was, of course, awarded following three years of postgraduate study), I was told that the degree would be considered to be the equivalent of two English A-levels.

That's the nice thing about chauvinism: anyone can practise it. No one should take it personally.

Yours faithfully,

TOM HERVEY

(Solicitor),

13 St Marks Road,

Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,

May 23.

## Premier feats

From Dr Peter W. Skelton

Sir, Harold Wilson gave us the Open University. John Major has given us the National Lottery.

Yours faithfully,

PETER SKELTON,

36 Station Road,

Woburn Sands, Buckinghamshire,

May 24.







## OBITUARIES

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, KG, OBE, PC, FRS, who served as Prime Minister, 1964-70 and 1974-76, died yesterday aged 79. He was born on March 11, 1916.

Harold Wilson always liked to remind people, and be reminded, that he had been Prime Minister of the United Kingdom more times — four times — than anyone since Gladstone. He dominated British politics between 1963, when he became Leader of the Opposition, and 1976, when in a stunning *coup de théâtre* he announced his resignation from No 10. But his overall achievement was much harder to pin down. He may have stripped his party of an outdated ideology but he put nothing in its place, leaving to his immediate successors a bankrupt political estate.

He once said that "a week is a long time in politics", a saying that was to be turned against him when his voluminous published accounts of his various administrations proved to be not reflections on policy, still less a measured assessment of national or party objectives, but rather a remorselessly detailed celebration of his own skill in dealing with day-to-day crises and jealous threats to his leadership — sometimes real, often imagined.

Yet he succeeded brilliantly in his 20 months as Leader of the Opposition and during his first administration, 1964-66, in establishing the Labour Party as a plausible alternative to the Conservatives. He stole many old Tory clothes, including patriotism, for Labour's use. Eventually, however, keeping his party in office had too transparently become an end in itself. Few of the great economic or industrial policies promised in Labour's manifestos came anywhere near fulfilment. Perhaps his most enduring and characteristic achievement — since he remained a bit of a *don marquée* (his last ambition, in which he was disappointed, was to become Master of University College, Oxford) — was the founding of the Open University.

In office he became more and more given to nautical or military metaphors, talking often of "being blown off course" or of how narrow were "the limits of manoeuvre". This was a tendency that developed early. In his *Diaries* Richard Crossman recalls his leader as remarking — in a conscious echo of the Duke of Wellington's Peninsular Campaign — that he was about to "retreat to my lines at Torres Vedras" within a month of becoming Prime Minister.

He read military and political biographies but had few, if any, other intellectual or cultural interests — except for a love of Gilbert and Sullivan. Politics was his only passion. He married a quiet, private and retiring person at a time when his own ambitions, and Mary Wilson's hopes for him, were both set on academic life. She was loyal to him, but found the exposure of public life hard to endure, especially when her modest but genuine talent as a popular poet was noticed and rocked because of his fame. A remarkable incident took place when, after Wilson's resignation, James Callaghan paid a tribute to his predecessor at his first conference as party leader. There was utter silence. But loud applause followed when he offered a conventional compliment to Mary Wilson.

James Harold Wilson was born in Middlesbrough, near Huddersfield, the only son and second child of Herbert and Ethel Wilson. His father was an industrial chemist and he was brought up in a comfortable section of the lower middle class. He did not take long to show signs of political precocity. When his parents visited him in hospital, where he had just undergone an appendicectomy operation at the age of seven, he promptly urged them not to linger lest they miss the chance of voting for Philip Snowden in the 1923 general election, and there was also the much-reproduced photograph of him as an eight-year-old standing outside No 10 on a visit to London. He came from a chapel-going, Congregational home and soon acquired a keen interest in Scouting, becoming a King's Scout — something which, no doubt, motivated him as a prefect to put down "an outbreak of smuttiness" at his school by instituting compulsory lunchtime games.

But, as his teachers spotted, he was predominantly academic-minded. From the Wirral Grammar School — where he went from Roysd Hall School, Huddersfield, after his family's move from Yorkshire to Cheshire — he won an exhibition in history to Jesus College, Oxford. Once there, he read PPE and in 1937 got the best first in the subject that year, also winning the Gladstone Memorial Prize and the Webb Medley Scholarship. He was awarded a research fellowship at New College and, a year later, a research fellowship at University College, where before the war he began to work under the supervision of the Master, Sir William Beveridge, on the problems of unemployment.

On the outbreak of war, he did not volunteer for the Forces — something the Tories were to make something of in later years — but instead joined the Civil Service, where he rose quickly. This was partly thanks to his own characteristic energy, assiduity and efficiency but also owed something to patronage from Beveridge — about which he was engagingly candid. In 1943 he became director of economics and statistics at the Ministry of Fuel and Power and secretary of the British side of the important Combined Production Resources Board and the Combined Raw Materials Board. No Prime Minister has ever had such a thorough knowledge of the working of "the machine".

His great abilities had been noticed by several Labour ministers in the wartime coalition and he received a number of approaches to stand for Parliament, finally settling on the then marginal Lancashire seat of Ormskirk. He was elected in 1945 and Clement Attlee at once appointed him Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Works. Early in 1947 he was promoted to be Secretary for Overseas Trade at the Board of Trade. He led a trade mission to the Soviet Union which,

though unsuccessful, revealed his self-confidence and toughness as a negotiator. When in September 1947 Sir Stafford Cripps became Minister for Economic Affairs, Wilson succeeded him as President of the Board of Trade, entering the Cabinet at the remarkably early age of 31.

Yet Wilson had no real standing at this time within his party. His speeches were thoroughly researched but drily delivered, with no emotion and few debating skills. So some surprise was caused when he resigned from the Cabinet with Aneurin Bevan in April 1951 over priorities for expenditure, reflected in Bevan's case by his protest against the introduction of prescription charges into the National Health Service (Wilson himself gave much greater emphasis to the defence budget). Some thought he was a raw young man swept away by the power of Bevan's personality. Others, for temper were high, denounced him as a rat deserting a sinking ship. He claimed merely that Hugh Gaitskell's proposed cuts as Chancellor in the social services, to pay for the rearmament programme, were damaging both to the poor and to the Labour Party's electoral prospects.

In 1952 he attained his reward by being elected at the party conference to the constituency section of the National Executive. But he was never of the doctrinaire or ideological Left. In 1954 Bevan suddenly resigned from the Shadow Cabinet, alleging that party policy over South-East Asia was too pro-American. Wilson was next-in-line for his seat, having been the runner-up in the PLP elections the previous year. He allowed himself to be co-opted, causing great fury to Bevan but retaining the support of some on the Left such as Crossman. With so many older men exhausted or retiring, Wilson, along with Gaitskell, had suddenly become a major figure within the party.

He saw himself as a conciliator, with better political antennae than Gaitskell, always trying to find the point of balance in the party. At this time he also broadened his knowledge and influence in the Labour movement by accepting nearly every invitation to address constituency or trade union meetings. Nor did he neglect contacts with industry and the universities. The intelligent, friendly but enigmatic face behind the pipe became familiar. His personal closeness to talented publicists, such as Crossman and Barbara Castle (who had been his PPS), his talks around the country and, once Gaitskell had become leader, his constant exposure as Shadow Chancellor — all improved his debating style. He worked on it methodically, equipping himself with "impromptu repartee" and set jokes, which the Commons began to enjoy, and his stature started to grow.

But soon there came a hiccup. After Labour's defeat in the 1955 general election, Gaitskell — like Tony Blair 35 years later — sought to modernise his party by abolishing the notorious Clause Four of its constitution (which appeared to commit it to public ownership of nearly everything) and to assert his leadership by fighting back against the unilateralist resolutions passed at the 1960 party conference. Wilson disagreed with, and distrusted, both the nationalists and the disarmers. Yet he felt that Gaitskell should not have forced a showdown. The Left was strong in the constituency parties and was determined that Gaitskell should be challenged. After Bevan's death in July 1960 they regarded Wilson as their candidate and, with some reluctance, he ran for the leadership in November 1960, being defeated by 164 votes to 81 in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The episode earned him many enemies. But his attacks on Tory ministers — particularly on Lord Home — once he became Shadow Foreign Secretary in 1961 earned him a growing, if grudging, respect. So, on Gaitskell's sudden death in January 1963, he was the most generally acceptable leader, defeating George Brown (who had handily beaten him three months earlier for the deputy leadership) by 144 votes to 103. Again, there was some luck involved. The party had not shifted suddenly to the Left. The volatile Brown, with his love of drink, scenes and quarrels, was simply regarded as too high a risk.

At the general election of October 1964 Wilson took personal command, making all the major decisions, holding all the press conferences, dominating Labour's campaign. The voters were encouraged to focus on Wilson, the "new man", as against Home, the symbol of a tired and effete Britain. Even so, Labour won an overall majority of only four seats.

Once he got to No 10, some of his own closest economic advisers urged immediate devaluation upon him. But Wilson — fearing the political consequences — stood out firmly against it. He sought salvation instead through domestic institutional changes. A Department of Economic Affairs was set up under George Brown, who persuaded both the CBI and the TUC to agree that prices and incomes should not rise faster than productivity, and that claims for increases should be put before a new Prices and Incomes Board. What some had long been calling "corporatism" had been given institutional recognition.

In the spring of 1966, Wilson called the expected general election. His timing was excellent. A majority of 97 was secured and, again, he ran and dominated the whole campaign. The word went out that all issues were to be played down but one: himself or the new Tory leader, Edward Heath. With what Jews call *chutzpah*, he campaigned on his record, after 18 months, and pictured Labour as the new natural party of government. He radiated to the public an impression both of competent power and of humane concern. Even those who were a little sceptical admired his political adroitness.

Winning so decisively brought all the underlying economic problems home to roost. The targets of the much-vaunted National Plan had become a joke, for the balance of payments was massively adverse, wages and prices were rising and production stagnant. The Cabinet was deeply divided about the merits of devaluation. Roy Jenkins, Anthony



Crosland and George Brown led the devaluers and briefly (in July 1966) converted the Chancellor, James Callaghan, but Wilson swiftly reconverted him, believing deeply that it could only be to Labour's discredit and that bright skies were around the corner.

When the inevitable cuts in public expenditure were announced, George Brown resigned from the DEA but accepted the Foreign Office. The voluntary prices and incomes restraint became statutory and, to their astonishment and anger, the middle classes found their salaries frozen. Wilson proved unexpectedly tough in his defence of what soon turned out to be an undefendable position. No amount of austerity could stop Britain's reserves being eaten up in support of an historic rather than a realistic pound-dollar ratio. When 26 Labour MPs abstained in a crucial vote, he first made his famous remark about "being blown off course". At last, in November 1967, a run on the pound forced him into a drastic 14.3 per cent devaluation, after seeing most of the Bank of England's reserves wiped out in a hopeless, stubborn defence.

His reputation went into a tailspin, for his personal responsibility was obvious. His relationship with the press had been excellent in his first Government. But from 1966 onwards it had turned sour on both sides. Many journalists had gone overboard for him in 1964 and now tried to make up for it. He felt betrayed, and mutual dislike and distrust grew rapidly.

The old Central Africa, now the Rhodesia, problem had been a constant thorn in the flesh to British governments. Wilson set out to solve it. He had a dramatic meeting with Ian Smith in December, 1966, at sea on HMS Tiger. But when Smith returned to Salisbury, he abandoned the agreement completely. Wilson had made the uncharacteristic mistake of announcing in advance that he would not use force against UDI (the unilateral declaration of independence). He later claimed that he was advised in the first days of UDI that military intervention was impossible. But retired defence chiefs and civil servants were to deny angrily that such advice had been either asked for or given.

He was bolder in grasping the nettle of Europe, over which, with the 1966 election safely won, he decided to make a new application for membership despite strong opposition, and not only from the Left of the party. In the spring of 1967 he and Brown toured the capitals of "the Six". The move was concerted with Ireland, Norway and Denmark. No fewer than 62 Labour MPs voted against the bid. But it was all for nothing. General de Gaulle delivered the final French veto in November 1967.

With that ball on the ground, Wilson badly needed to throw a new one up in the air. He had gradually become convinced of the need, both for the sake of the economy and for the popularity of his Government, to bring in a reform of industrial relations, for stronger laws to regulate trade union organisation, especially on how strikes were called. In the spring of 1968 Barbara Castle had become First Secretary of State in charge of the freshly created Department of Employment and Productivity. She was already thinking on the same lines.

In January 1969 a new policy was set out in a White Paper, *In Place of Strife*. Opinion polls showed its popularity in the

country but it was bitterly opposed by the trade unions and most of the activists in the Labour Party. Again, as with the prices and incomes policy (which had simply proved unworkable), there had been no real preparation. Wilson seemed to place his trust in his own hold on the party machine, the authority of his office and in Barbara Castle's great popularity with the Left. But more than sixty Labour MPs voted against the White Paper and the Chief Whip, Robert Mellish, and the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Douglas Houghton, had to tell the Prime Minister that it was unlikely that a Bill would find a majority. In the worst climbdown of his career he was forced by his own Cabinet — whom he characteristically accused of "turning yellow" — to announce the withdrawal of the Bill. The TUC patched up appearances by offering "a solemn and binding undertaking" — an expression of its own willingness in future to take action against unofficial strikes.

Paradoxically, Wilson's own standing in the opinion polls was temporarily enhanced. Perhaps the public thought that the Conservatives should have supported him, not quibbled. Certainly, the balance of payments had improved after devaluation, so a relatively neutral Budget from Roy Jenkins in 1970 offered £200 million of tax relief especially to the lower paid. Wilson was certainly confident when he went to the country in June 1970. This time, the campaign was positively monarchical in tone. The public, however, had had enough. A 4.7 per cent national swing gave Edward Heath an overall majority of 30.

For the first year of Opposition, Wilson neglected the Commons to an extraordinary extent. Like Winston Churchill before him, he devoted himself almost entirely to his memoirs, publishing in 1971 *The Labour Government, 1964-70*, a massive work which was remarkable for its complete lack both of any radical thrust and of any analysis of basic national problems. The book did not enthrall his party nor impress his critics. It did, however, make him a lot of money from a *Sunday Times* serialisation — which was just as well since in those days a Leader of the Opposition was expected to run his office on a shoe-string.

The campaign against Heath's Industrial Relations Act gave Wilson the chance to mend his fences with the Left of the party, which now included some of the leaders of the largest unions. But grassroots opposition to Heath's abortive attempts to apply market principles to the welfare state brought into an ageing party structure many of the student Marxists or "New Left", who had become disillusioned with the Soviet Union itself after 1956. Typically, Wilson at first took a conciliatory rather than a combative tone towards them, though privately he groaned at this new cross he had to bear. This may partly explain his most spectacular "U-turn". Europe had always been unpopular with the Left of the party. After de Gaulle's death, Heath made a direct approach to President Pompidou. Britain's entry to the Community was assured. At first, Wilson had reserved his position but at a special conference of the Labour Party in July 1971 he announced that the terms were not acceptable, although in fact they were very much those he had been prepared to con-

plate in his own wooing of Europe in 1967. This *houleversement* severely damaged his own reputation, though his supporters were later to argue that he deliberately sacrificed it in order to preserve the unity of the party.

When Heath, incensed by the celebratory confrontation with the miners, went to the country in February 1974 the two parties emerged almost equal — with just four seats between them — and with 14 Liberals, ten Ulster Unionists, and nine Scottish and Welsh Nationalists holding the balance of power. Heath was unable to come to terms with the Liberals and, after three days' delay, resigned. During the election campaign, Wilson had often appeared tired, edgy and dispirited. But delivered, as he had been, from an enforced retirement, all his old energy and political skill initially came back.

He promised the unions repeal of the hated Conservative Industrial Relations Act and appointed Michael Foot, the darling of the old Left, to be Secretary of State for Employment. Denis Healey as Chancellor promised higher pensions and higher taxes on the rich. James Callaghan, as Foreign Secretary, was sent around Europe to demand renegotiation in the loudest and most truculent manner possible. But, despite the much-promoted "social contract" with the unions, wages continued to rise and the overseas spending account was in record deficit. Luckily, in the late summer, prices were still just behind wages. So Wilson boldly called a second general election for October 1974. The gamble did not work nearly as well as in 1966: this time Labour emerged with an overall majority, not of 97, but of just three.

Yet the parliamentary margin looked more precarious than it actually was. The narrowness of the majority gave Wilson a strong hold on his party. The Scottish Nationalists, who now had 11 MPs elected to the Commons, were kept in check by a Royal Commission on the Constitution to consider "devolution" — a term he used to obscure any clear distinction between local government and federalism. But Wilson himself was tired and in his fourth administration he came more and more to rely on a "kitchen cabinet" (which tended to vary as individuals went in and out of favour) and on his long-suffering Downing Street private office.

His devoted political secretary Marcia Williams (who served him from 1956 onwards and whom in 1974 he created a life peer as Lady Falkender) was widely felt to exercise too much influence. But she was an able and strong-minded woman whose political astuteness he rightly admired. He could also be a man of great personal consideration and kindness. When, in 1968, Marcia Williams found herself pregnant with the first of her two sons by the political correspondent Walter Terry, it was Wilson who advised her against having an abortion — despite the inevitable risk of rumour and scandal to his own reputation. Deliberately posing as tough-minded in public, he was seldom anything but soft-hearted in private.

In his fourth administration he left more and more decisions to senior colleagues. But he kept the European question in his own hands. The renegotiations, not unexpectedly, yielded few concessions. Wilson was thus on the horns of a dilemma: the party was overwhelmingly against staying in, indus-

trial and financial opinion (and the entire Civil Service machine) were not merely for staying but for playing a positive role, and the Cabinet was divided. Although by 16 to seven they favoured remaining inside the Community, resignations were threatened from both camps. So Wilson, in putting the matter to the British people in a referendum, decided to waive the convention of collective responsibility. Cabinet members could, and did, campaign on rival sides. He got off the hook when the public in June 1975 voted by 67 to 33 per cent for the new terms.

With this humiliating defeat of the Left in the European referendum, Wilson felt able to move back towards the old panacea of an incomes policy. A joint statement with the TUC was made in July 1975. Compulsion had been dropped by the Cabinet and Foot secured the formidable backing of Jack Jones, the leader of the TGWU.

But in the autumn industrial strategy shifted towards greater support for the private sector and a major economic review heralded a sharp cutback in the growth of public expenditure. All this led to much protest on the back benches of the PLP and early in March 1976 there was a government defeat, thanks to the abstention of 37 left-wing MPs. Wilson denounced them with unusual bluntness and bitterness, though he did not make the mistake of referring (as he had in his 1964-70 Government) to Labour MPs as having "dog licences". Nevertheless, his spell over his party was largely broken. He celebrated his 60th birthday and then took the political world utterly by surprise by announcing his resignation as Prime Minister on March 16, 1976.

There was wild press speculation about "real" and "hidden" reasons. But the reasons, for once, were almost certainly those he himself gave: his age, his length of service, his desire for some private life and his reluctance to imperil his record of victories by leading the party into another election. (His claim that he had fulfilled his programme was more questionable.)

He accepted the Garter and awarded 42 honours to members of his entourage or friends (the latter overwhelmingly in showbusiness or financial undertakings) and retired to the back benches. Five years later none of the peers announced in the notorious "lavender" Honours List still took the Labour whip. Though nominally impartial, such influence as he retained went towards the election of James Callaghan as his successor.

Several "how-it-can-be-told" books followed from his old staff at No 10, and there were some angry recriminations. But he would not be drawn into any of this. His silence on party issues was almost total. Old colleagues were first impressed by his tact and then depressed to realise that he had lost interest in national affairs and even in the Labour Party itself. Private life was authorship and, before Alzheimer's disease took a cruel toll on his memory, a childlike pleasure in accepting invitations to preside at public occasions, especially educational ones. Delighted school heads in Yorkshire and elsewhere discovered, while they still believed in giving prizes, that he gladly handed them out and delivered a long speech into the bargain.

He wrote, with some assistance, a surprisingly conventional book on *The Governance of Britain* (1976), an unsatisfactory effort at an academic treatment rather than a realistic account of high politics. He presented a 13-part television series on former Prime Ministers, which was turned into a book, *A Prime Minister on Prime Ministers* (1977). The tone was omniscient but benign, forgiving and congratulatory all-round. A second volume of memoirs, covering his Government of 1974-76, was published in 1979. It was exactly like the first. His best book was devoted to a subject that had always been close to his heart, Israel. Published under the title *The Chariot of Israel* in 1981, it demonstrated that at that stage he still had his wits about him. His final effort at autobiography, covering his life up to the moment he became Prime Minister, came out in 1986 and was greeted with a general chorus of disbelief as to its inaccuracy.

The only public service he took on after leaving office was to chair a committee set up to review the functioning of financial institutions. It was established by Callaghan in 1977 as a rather Wilsonian device to buy time against backbench demands for investigations into City scandals and left-wing demands to nationalise the banks and insurance companies. After three years of deliberations its recommendations turned out to be minor, if not trivial.

In 1981 Wilson was the centre of attention for the last time when he said that there had been a high-level plot in 1968 and an effort at bugging in 1974 against him. Questions were asked in the House, but Margaret Thatcher declined to appoint a committee of inquiry. She was not alone in believing that all this amounted to paranoia on Wilson's part.

However, some real fire, as well as dense smoke, was revealed when Peter Wright's book, *Spycatcher*, was eventually published in 1983. He claimed that he and some rogue colleagues in MI5 had kept watch on the Prime Minister, being concerned at some of Wilson's social contacts and the frequency of his earlier visits to the Soviet Union. Nothing actually happened in either 1968 or in 1974, and the flurry of publicity did far more harm to MI5's reputation than to Wilson's.

He remained Labour MP for Huyton until 1983, when he decided not to stand again in the general election and was made a life peer. After his somewhat rambling maiden speech he took little active part in the proceedings of the Upper House, still less after 1983 in public life. An increasingly frail and forlorn figure, almost air-brushed out of the Labour Party's history, he would impinge on the public consciousness only once a year — though he did not attend last June — at the annual Garter ceremony at Windsor. He is survived by his wife Mary and their two sons.



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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Is John Major the best leader Labour ever had?



BOOKS 37, 38

A man of letters who became lost for words



SPORT 42-48

British newcomer shoulders burden of expectation

WHAT MAKES ED WOOD SO GOOD?  
Pages 34-36

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MAY 25 1995

## Cheap loans put banks in jeopardy

By Robert Miller

THE Bank of England yesterday issued a stern warning to British banks to tighten up their lending policies to business customers. The Bank said competition had driven lending margins too low and was making terms too generous. In an ironic reversal of the complaints of overcharging from small businesses, the banks' supervisor also intimated that lending to small businesses was again becoming a danger area.

As banks battle for a bigger share of a generally lacklustre corporate lending market, their regulator said it was concerned that standards were being "loosened". Senior officials said the key concern was that "banks may no longer be charging borrowers adequately for the risks they are taking".

The Bank of England Banking Act report for 1994 published yesterday, said that by reducing the cost of borrowing for companies across the board there was a danger that banks could be caught out by lending to "less creditworthy borrowers" as well as the high-quality ones.

The Bank said that the intense competition to lend

money to companies had not just centred on the rate of interest charged. It added: "In a number of cases, loan covenants have also been loosened. This is a worrying development. A willingness to compromise on standards of financial covenants may mean the scope for lenders to monitor the financial health of borrowers, receive early warning of problems, and press for remedial action is considerably diminished."

Bank officials are anxious to avoid a replay of the last

Pennington 27

downturn in the economic recession. Then, slack lending policies to companies led to the banks collectively clocking up billions of pounds worth of bad debt provisions.

In their haste to restore battered profit margins, banks pulled the rug from under large numbers of companies, large and small. This, in turn, led to the Bank launching an urgent review of lending policies in general and small companies in particular. The Bank noted that UK banks

achieved record levels of profitability last year, with an aggregate pre-tax return on equity for the largest 29 per cent compared with an average of about 14 per cent between 1983-93. But, the report added: "Profits will almost certainly decline when the economic cycle turns down."

The Bank also said that it expected far greater disclosure on the position taken by UK banks in the derivatives market and, in particular, wanted to improve the information flow on their exposure to the over-the-counter derivative market.

It is in this area where many of the largest losses have occurred through dealings in highly speculative and sophisticated "swap" instruments.

The Bank said that it wanted to ensure that banks disclose, through their public accounts, information that allows investors and depositors to make informed decisions about the nature of their business and the scale of risks run, and to ensure that information provided to statutory supervisors was comprehensive.

The Bank itself increased its dividend payment to the Treasury last year to £102.2 million, against £48.4 million in 1993-94, according to the latest annual report, also published yesterday. The flotation of 31 last year, in which the Bank held a 14.5 per cent stake since 1945, brought in nearly £120 million. The Bank is planning to sell the remainder of its holding next month.

The annual report shows that Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, earned £227,000 in the year to February 28, exactly the same as the total that was paid to him and Lord Kingsdown, his predecessor, in the previous year.



Colin Smith, left, Alistair Grant, and David Webster, deputy chairman, yesterday

## Argyll to shed 4,800 jobs

By Sarah Bagnall

ARGYLL, Britain's third biggest supermarket group, is axing 4,800 jobs — 7 per cent of its workforce — as part of a radical £195 million shake-up.

Of the job losses, 1,800 are due to the recently announced closure of 104 Presto stores and 20 Safeway stores. Colin Smith, chief executive, says the other 3,000 are mainly managerial and supervisory jobs from the group's 358

Safeway stores and about 200 head office jobs. Sir Alistair Grant, chairman, said these redundancies will be offset by 7,500 new jobs created by the opening of 34 new stores over the next two years. The job losses will cost about £40 million.

The news came as Argyll announced a 3 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional costs to £375 million in

the year to April 1. The rise was achieved on the back of a 4 per cent rise in sales to £6.2 billion.

The final dividend is being lifted from 7.75p to 8.1p, making a year's total of 12p (11.5p). The dividend, due August 14, is being paid out pre-exceptional earnings of 23.3p a share, up 2 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

## Funding struggle ahead for ICS

By Robert Miller

CITY merchant banks were last night reluctant to agree a much-needed £50 million line of credit to the official Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) in the face of a legal challenge calling into question the scheme's powers.

National Westminster Bank has put together a syndicate of finance houses to advance the standing loan to the ICS, but syndicate members are unwilling to give final approval. Their reluctance stems from a request to the High Court by Sun Life, the insurer, for judicial review of the power of City watchdogs to levy contributions on their members to support the scheme.

NatWest has arranged a meeting with the ICS for tomorrow. NatWest, which replaced SG Warburg as lead merchant bank in the ICS underwriting syndicate, said: "We have organised a syndicate of banks willing to provide a £50 million line of credit for the ICS to draw on if it should need to. As the lead arranger, NatWest will be advising the syndicate on how to proceed in the light of our discussions with the ICS."

The ICS is the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud. Since 1988, the scheme has paid £80 million to nearly 8,000 investors. Within the next few weeks, the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms selling investments direct to the public, will be seeking a further £15.8 million from its members. Many PIA members are reluctant to pay up while there is a legal challenge pending.

The ICS has an interim arrangement with its main banker, the Royal Bank of Scotland, to draw on a £10 million overdraft facility. It is understood that RBS may review this facility if the £50 million merchant bank credit line is withdrawn and if Sun Life gains a full hearing. RBS declined to comment.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES	
FT-SE 100	3227.3 (+35.5)
Yield	4.14%
FT-SE All share	1632.16 (+14.49)
Nikkei	15970.75 (+54.60)
Dow Jones	4448.19 (+11.75)
S&P Composite	530.84 (+2.05)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	6% (5%+)
Long Bond	110% (109%+)
Yield	6.77% (6.84%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	8% (8%+)
Libra long bill	107% (108%+)

STERLING	
New York	1.5785 (1.5705)
London	1.5785 (1.5685)
DM	2.2704 (2.2653)
FF	8.0670 (8.0410)
Sfr	1.8919 (1.8853)
Yen	137.58 (136.85)
£ index	84.9 (84.8)

US\$ & EURO	
London	1.4393 (1.4441)
DM	1.1095 (1.1115)
FF	1.1995 (1.2030)
Yen	87.12 (87.19)
£ index	98.1 (98.1)

Tokyo close Yen 87.38

Brent 15-day (Aug) \$18.05 (\$18.10)

London close \$33.85 (\$32.45)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Shares reach 15-month high

The bull run resumed in London as leading shares and gilts posted strong gains. The FT-SE 100 index closed at a 15-month high after stocks on Wall Street set new records. Economic statistics on both sides of the Atlantic pointing to an easing of inflationary pressures combined with a string of positive corporate trading results and a downward revision of UK GDP figures.

The FT-SE 100 index touched an intra-session trading high for the year of 3,324.3, slipping to end at 3,327.3, up 35.5 points. The year's previous closing high was 3,317.9 on May 11.

Stock market, page 28

## 'Rottweiler' name urges rejection of Lloyd's package

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

JOHN DONNER, a Lloyd's name and former market professional, is urging names to reject Lloyd's £2.8 billion settlement package because it fails to justify and fairly compensate names for their losses.

Mr Donner, 64, who earned the nickname "rottweiler" in the 1980s for his tenacity, claims that much of the £3 billion of losses that have hit names were caused or exacerbated by "fraud, deliberate concealment, bad motives and massive regulatory failure".

His claims come as the Treasury Select Committee is expected to release a damning report on self-regulation of the insurance market. The report, out today, is expected to conclude that the system of self-regulation at Lloyd's is fundamentally flawed.

Mr Donner, together with his wife and two children, has lost more than £3 million in the insurance market. Mr Donner, who sold his members' agency for £4.5 million to Sturge about five years ago, has taken the unusual step of placing a full-page

advertisement in today's edition of *The Times*. The advertisement, on page 9, brandishes the headline: "If you knew the answers to these questions you wouldn't accept the Lloyd's offer."

Mr Donner said: "The offer is a sham partly because it has no contribution from the parties who are culpable." These, he alleges, are the Department of Trade and Industry, the US Labour Office, successive committees and former chairmen at Lloyd's. "The parties responsible have to get to come to the settlement," he said.

He is calling on names to join the Donner Names Association in its fight to expose the "truth" behind the losses; to seek and obtain a fair and just compensation for all names and to ensure that Lloyd's is regulated properly in the future.

One of his claims is that Lloyd's deliberately concealed information concerning the potential asbestos and pollution claims emanating from the US. Mr Donner said: "I have the evidence to prove it and I will stop at nothing to do so."

## BAe and GEC poised to renew fight for VSEL

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE bid battle between British Aerospace and the General Electric Company for control of VSEL, the Barrow warship builder, is expected to resume today.

BAe is poised to renew its offer of 3.3 of its own shares for every share in VSEL, valuing the company at some £670 million. The price, £100 million higher than the valuation offered by BAe last autumn thanks to a rise in BAe shares, will be justified by the £89.2 million increase in VSEL's net cash, to £411 million.

GEC is also on standby to launch a new cash offer above the £532 million it tabled last

autumn. Advisers to both bidders spent yesterday reviewing the value of VSEL after the Barrow company announced pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 up 5.7 per cent at £64.5 million.

The results were published only 24 hours after Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, said he would not block either predator.

Noel Davies, chief executive of VSEL, said he hoped the company's fate would be decided "as soon as possible". VSEL wants a larger parent to underwrite its bid to build five new nuclear-powered submarines for the Ministry of

Defence, and to help it win export contracts. It says either GEC or BAe would be acceptable. The scale of VSEL's cash will add to the attractions of the company to BAe as a disguised rights issue. BAe is also keen to extend its activities as a prime contractor into warship construction.

GEC, which has ample spare cash, may now be keener to secure the economies that would stem from ownership of VSEL, and more concerned that any failure to win control could lead it to get out of warship building.

Sweet revenge, page 29

Brewer ends tradition of serving free beer

## Young & Co calls time on liquid AGM

By Martin Waller



Dry measure: John Young caps costs

ONE of the grandest traditions in the brewing industry has, sadly, been put out to grass. Young & Co, a small south-west London brewer, is putting its famed, and famously liquid, annual shareholders' meetings on the wagon.

Young's, one of the most traditional of businesses in an industry increasingly dominated by high technology and the marketing man, is not succumbing to the dread hand of political correctness or the health lobby, however.

The blame is put squarely on shareholders' appetites for the product, which until now has been served free and in large quantities at its AGMs. The meetings, an essential entry in the diaries of free-loading real ale buffs with a handful of shares apiece, have simply become too expensive.

The last one, at a modest west

London hotel, cost £25,000, or £38 a head, a lot for a company that yesterday reported annual profits of £5.31 million, up just 3 per cent for its latest financial year to April 30.

The cost may not seem a great deal when put against company jamborees like that hosted each year by the rather bigger Grand Metropolitan or the corporate rallies once held by Burton Group under Sir Ralph Halpern. But most of that £25,000 went on beer.

Some 658 people went last year and got through 2,500 pints. Food was limited to a modest plate of sandwiches, and a fair number, mostly women, limited their liquid intake to a few glasses of wine. The real ale fraternity, therefore, did rather better than the statistical average of four pints apiece among their number was a Mancunian who was overheard calculating that three more pints would pay back

his day return on the train. "It was more of an excuse for a beano than a serious business meeting," said Michael Hardman, the Young's spokesman. "Our shareholders really should be taking an interest in the company."

In future, they will have to content themselves with their dividends — a same-old final of 7.75p and 15p total — and a strictly dry meeting at the drab Wandsworth Town Hall, next door to Young's Ram Brewery.

"We want our shareholders to visit the many Young's pubs in and around Wandsworth," said John Young, chairman, who once enlivened the local advertising boards by dressing up as Lord Kitchener in an advertising campaign. The hospitality promised there will be warm — but not free.

Changes brewing, page 27  
Pennington, page 27

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page 28

S K Y















THE  
TIMESCITY  
DIARYNorman puts  
Brown in shade

SHAREHOLDERS at today's annual meeting at 30 Farringdon Street of BNB Resources, the accountancy training and recruitment group, should ask David Norman, chairman and chief executive, if he preaches "do as I say, not as I do" to the impressionable young number-crunchers he counts among his clientele. Apart from his Cadbury-defying title, Norman, according to BNB's report and accounts, was paid a total of £679,000 in 1994, a 40 per cent increase over the previous year. Not bad for a business that made pre-tax profits of £3.6 million. It makes Cedric Brown on £475,000 at British Gas, where latest pre-tax profits were £1.4 billion, look like a bargain.

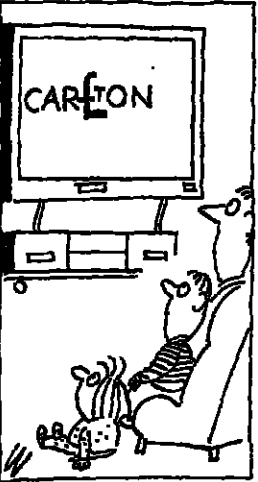
RUPERT Pennant-Rea was earning a performance bonus at the Bank of England before his unscheduled departure. But snout-in-trough hunters will be disappointed. The Bank of England accounts reveal that bonuses to the deputy and four executive directors totalled a modest £25,000 in 1994-95.

## On the run

IF YOU'VE always wanted to see lawyers on the run, your chance has arrived. Wigs and robes are being swapped for shorts and trainers today for the fifth annual fund-raising Wilde Sapte City of London road race, a highlight of National Law Week, raising funds for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

## Loyalty test

THE Lord Tebbit test of loyalty will be applied at Robert Fleming Securities today. The firm and two of its subsidiaries, Fleming Martin and Ord Minnett, have invited 120 clients to the London Rugby Club at 2.30 pm to watch the opening game between South Africa and Australia in the Rugby World Cup series. Therein lies the quandary. Fleming Martin is half South African. Ord Minnett is Australian.



## Basic rules

DAVID WHITLOCK, who holds an important job in the City, is in Hong Kong where he has been vigorously waving the flag for the City. He is attending a rather important symposium that has attracted 450 delegates. He told them "the City goes for first-class, quality service", adding that he pays for people to make unannounced audits to make sure everything is up to standard. He declared: "We want our attendants to be a guide, an assistant, a welfare officer and a diplomat — all of that." Whitlock's job title is: assistant director, wastes collections and public conveniences, for the Corporation of London.

YOU'VE heard of golden days. Now comes golden letters. The World Gold Council is pleased at its success in the Gulf in marketing the "wonder alphabet" — a chain of all 26 letters of the alphabet, fashioned in 18-carat gold. They are selling like hot cakes at \$300 a time.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANDRZEJ KALETSKY

Labour should be grateful  
for Major's 1992 victory

Have Tony Blair and his colleagues fallen uncritically for the quasi-religious monetarist dogma of the 1980s?

Everybody agrees that the Labour Party today has the best leader in its entire history. But the question brought to mind by this week's groundbreaking Mait Lecture is whether that great leader is Tony Blair or John Major.

Let me explain by considering at some length the unsung service Mr Major has rendered to Labour. Looking back on the last few years with historical hindsight, it is clear that for all Mr Blair's undoubted accomplishments, Mr Major is the one who has proved to be Labour's greatest political asset. Mr Major's innumerable blunders and own goals are familiar enough to need no elaboration. But his biggest service to Labour has never been mentioned before, as far as I know. Appropriately enough, the achievement that clinches Mr Major's place as the Labour Party's saviour is the one of which the Prime Minister himself is most proud.

By winning the 1992 general election against the odds, Mr Major saved Labour from what would certainly have been the terminal catastrophe in its 50-year decline. Knowing what we now know about the state of the British economy in the ERM period, imagine what would have happened if Neil Kinnock had won in 1992.

The pound would have been devalued as ignominiously as it was on Black Wednesday, but only after an even more titanic struggle, with interest rates soaring not to 15, but to 30, 40 or 100 per cent. Mr Major, whose devotion to parliamentary management at the expense of any long-range vision marks him out as a far better Leader of the Opposition than Prime Minister, would have denounced the devaluation as a national humiliation and an economic disaster. This disgrace would certainly have been averted if the Tories had remained in power, he would claim. The electorate, the media and even the Labour Party itself — not having the benefit of counterfactual historic insight — would undoubtedly have believed him. Labour would have been tarred forever as the party of devaluation: in 1967, in 1976 and again in 1992.

The financial nightmare would have confirmed the Labour left's most paranoid fears about world capitalism and free markets. The new government's first order of business after devaluation would have been to impose new financial regulations and "temporary" exchange controls. The "inevitable" inflationary consequences of any devaluation, so confidently predicted by the Treasury, the Bank of England and the entire economic establishment just before Black Wednesday, would have provoked immediate demands for higher wages from public sector unions and would have been answered by the only obvious emergency response: an incomes policy and a social contract.

Mr Kinnock's Euro-enthusiasm, combined with the collapse in its self-confidence, would have ruled out the option of simply leaving the ERM. Instead, Labour would have redoubled its efforts to defend the new ERM parity which would have been agreed with European partners and would therefore inevitably remain overval-



In his revisions of Lord Lawson's doctrine, Tony Blair "attacked the Tories on all the wrong scores"

ued, to the benefit of Britain's industrial competitors in Germany and France. Interest rates would have risen instead of falling sharply immediately after the devaluation. Public spending and inflation would have soared. In sum, the devaluation would have been transformed into exactly the economic disaster predicted by the establishment, instead of the liberation it turned out to be.

Now consider the political fallout. If Labour had won in 1992, it would have been with a tiny majority. With the economy collapsing around its ears, the Labour government would have been out of office in months. The generation of young voters who had never known Labour government would have learned their lesson. Labour would be discredited forever, even as an opposition. John Major would have attained the pinnacle of Lady Thatcher's ambition: he would have turned Britain into a one-party state.

Let me now explain my reasons for this long excursion into pseudo-history. A Labour government courts disaster when it tries to outdo the Tories in sticking to a deflationary policy, such as "defence" of the pound. Of course, Labour also courts disaster if it expands the economy too fast or allows too much inflation.

The essence of rational economic policymaking is constantly to balance and rebalance the risks of inflation and unemployment. No politician or central banker will ever publicly say he is "taking risks with inflation". But this is

simply a lie. The only way to avoid taking risks with inflation would be to raise real interest rates to 20 per cent and keep them there forever. In the real world, monetary and fiscal policy, like every other important policy, is all about balancing risks. It is the fate of politicians (and that includes central bankers) to tread a fine line between potentially undesirable outcomes.

The terrifying implication of Monday's Mait Lecture is that Mr Blair seems not to understand this. Instead of the cautious empiricism of the macroeconomic fine-tuning performed so successfully in the past few years by the Treasury and the US Federal Reserve Board, Mr Blair and his entourage seem to have fallen uncritically for the quasi-religious monetarist dogma that dominated British policymaking in the 16 years up to 1992.

Most of his Mait Lecture on Monday was devoted to a long and amazingly flat-

tering discussion of the 1984 Mait Lecture delivered by Nigel Lawson. This was the celebrated occasion when the ex-Chancellor announced his "discovery" that economic policy could be "divided into two branches" — monetary and fiscal policy on the one hand, and microeconomic policy, such as labour market and industrial regulation, on the other. Lord Lawson then proclaimed that each of these branches of policy must be "assigned" to one objective: macroeconomic policy, which had previously been designed to balance the risks of inflation and unemployment, must be used solely to control inflation; microeconomic eco-

nomies could then be directed at unemployment, all of which was henceforth to be attributed entirely to failures of economic structure, rather than inadequate demand.

This Lawson theory, far from "challenging conventional wisdom head-on", as the ex-Chancellor insisted, was actually the crudest possible restatement of the pre-Keynesian conventional wisdom that had produced the wild instability of pre-war days. This theory was also comprehensively disproved by experience. Inflation, supposed to be influenced solely by macroeconomics, fell decisively, despite a long succession of monetary failures. Unemployment, which was supposedly affected only by structural policies, climbed relentlessly, despite a successful programme of microeconomic reforms.

Mr Blair claimed in his Mait Lecture that it was now his turn to upset the conventional wisdom of Lord Lawson. But when it came to the substance of his revisions of the Lawson doctrine, he attacked the Tories on all the wrong scores. The Tories' structural policies had been inadequate, although Mr Blair fails to spell out in detail what he would put in their place. His main attack is reserved for the macroeconomic blunders made by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Major — both notorious softies in his view.

Instead of sticking to their monetary targets regardless of the state of the economy, or defending some arbitrary exchange rate, the Tories "changed the policy regime whenever it was convenient. Too much flexibility became a liability and policy lost its credibility with the markets", says Mr Blair.

A Labour government would be made of sterner stuff. If Mr Blair is taken at his word, Britain really would have remained in the ERM in 1992 — and interest rates would be 20 per cent.

Monetary and fiscal policy, like every other important policy, is all about balancing risks

Sweet revenge  
for minister  
who walked

Ross Tieman looks at how, nine years on, Heseltine has finally had his way

Michael Heseltine now has his revenge. Nine years ago, he resigned melodramatically from the post of Defence Secretary after failing to secure the future of Westland, the Yeovil helicopter maker, as part of a European consortium.

But in the past nine months, as President of the Board of Trade, he has effectively reversed the free-market, damn-the-consequences procurement policies of Margaret Thatcher's administration.

First, at the back end of last year, came the decision to procure transport planes for the Royal Air Force from the European Future Large Aircraft programme, provided appropriate commercial conditions are met.

Next, in March, the Ministry of Defence ordered 22 transport helicopters from Westland, even though they cost more than the American Chinook machines that the services preferred.

Now Mr Heseltine has rejected the advice of members of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, who recommended by a 6-4 ma-

of programmes which nation states can no longer afford to develop alone.

The appalling cost overruns identified by the National Audit Office yesterday on many leading defence programmes are evidence of an approach that failed.

The MoD's response has been to hand over much more responsibility to a single private sector bidder — the prime contractor — and attach penalties for any failure in performance.

To shoulder the risk, prime contractors need deep pockets and a broad spread of programmes.

VSEL wants to be taken over by either GEC or British Aerospace because it needs support to take on the risks associated with the £3.5 billion prime contract to build five new Trafalgar nuclear-powered submarines.

Even with £411 million saved, more than 10 per cent of contract value, VSEL says it would be over-exposed if it took on the job alone.

Similar pressures are having a comparable impact in the United States, and in continental Europe, France,

Cost overruns on programmes are evidence of a failed approach

Britain and Germany, as well as the United States, are concluding that in some areas — notably aircraft, missiles, satellites, armoured vehicles and now ships — they must collaborate to achieve programmes at acceptable costs.

In Europe, at least, national champions are giving way to pan-national champions. A switch to single sourcing of major sub-assemblies will ensure that any country that interferes with supplies to a collaborator risks instant retaliation.

Mr Heseltine was ahead of his time, but the day of the European consortium has now dawned. Policies that encourage consolidation will also promote convergence.

His challenge now is to develop effective competition to supply systems and assemblies within the prime contract — competition in which British suppliers are not disadvantaged by vertically integrated prime contractors or European rivals.



The Trafalgar-class submarine HMS Turbulent

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Continuity, change and costs in financial regulation

From the Chief Executive of Imro

Sir, Martin Owen (Business Letters, May 23) rightly raised the question of the cost of instability and loss of continuity that further changes in financial regulations may entail.

We in the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) are very aware of the costs that have been generated in getting regulation of the investment management industry to its current state, and do not wish to do anything to increase those costs unless there is a

clear benefit to investor protection. However, it should be acknowledged that the recent debate has been instigated not by Imro or the SFA but by the Labour Party, which identifies a general dissatisfaction with the success rate of regulators, a concern over perceptions of self-interest in the current system, and a lack of accountability.

Much of what Imro has been doing in the last two years is aimed at addressing these matters, and it is important that they are addressed if investors are to have confidence in the financial services industry, and are to have the

confidence to invest for their future security.

This need not mean change to the way regulation affects firms and individuals, nor will it mean disposing with the accumulated experience of the last few years. However, it could well mean a re-division of responsibilities within the current structure to remove duplication and to improve accountability. We should not be afraid of that.

Yours faithfully,  
P. A. THORPE,  
Investment Management Regulatory Organisation,  
Broadwalk House,  
Appold Street, EC2.

## Taking gas to rural areas

From P. A. J. Tarrant

Sir, I read the article by Ross Tieman on rural gasification in Ingham, West Suffolk, (May 19) with a mixture of sadness and anger. Dare I say, in the good old days, under the chairmanship of Bob Evans, we were given a directive from him to extend the gas system.

From this sprang our district rural gasification team. This consisted of an engineer, myself, plus assistant, and a colleague from the marketing department with an assistant and clerk. We were given the task of taking gas to areas outside the existing customer base.

Before you look at any scheme, you have to ascertain that there is sufficient spare capacity in the area to be served without crippling any project with a prohibitively expensive reinforcement scheme. My part of the team obtained maps, updated them, designed and costed the mains system, including the connection to properties. My marketing colleague would survey the properties and count all the houses, schools, businesses and from this assess the

usage of gas per property in terms from which we could estimate the future income for British Gas. From this calculation we were able to arrive at a figure called the maximum permitted outlay (MPO) which was British Gas's contribution to the cost of all mains and services.

After I had designed and costed the project, the MPO would be deducted. The remainder was then divided by 70 per cent of the total properties and a contribution calculated. The contributions varied between £20 and £600, but most big schemes (around 800-plus properties) averaged about £360. Every household, business etc was sent a quotation and if 25 per cent of the total properties accepted, the scheme went ahead. We had very few failures in our district, but we had to do some hard-selling.

There were "ground rules" laid down, the principle was every one paid the same as long as the length of service pipe on private property was of a reasonable length, the second was that after sufficient contributions were received to cover the cost of the mains and services then the contributions stopped and we reverted to our standard

charging procedure. Sometimes that would cost more. An unofficial rule by us was that we did not tell areas we were considering a gas supply because, considering became — are coming, are coming meant free. It was amazing how rumours could spread. Therefore our team avoided postal surveys like the plague, which was probably the undoing of Ingham.

We had five very fruitful years expanding the gas system in our district until — along came Ofgas and said British Gas must lose a percentage of its industrial and commercial business. Rural gas stopped overnight. I feel sorry for the villages we had

pencilled in for future schemes because, at the present rate, they do not stand a snowball's chance in hell of getting a gas supply at a reasonable cost, and that to us was £400, plus or minus £100.

One word to the residents of Ingham, ask the local water company the cost of its mains and services — £1,200 would be the bargain of the year.

In our five or so years of rural gas, we made gas available to more than 16,000 consumers in more than 100 separate small towns, villages and single streets.

Yours faithfully,  
P. A. J. TARRANT,  
2 Mortimer Way,  
Loughborough, Leicestershire.

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## Land Securities climbs to £241m

By CARL MORTISHED

PETER HUNT, chairman of Land Securities, Britain's largest property group, rounded on critics of the company's growth prospects as he unveiled a 2 per cent rise in profits and net assets per share.

"We came through this recession with increased dividends and profits every year and we didn't do a rights issue," he commented. Referring to concern that rental growth will be constrained by a large number of properties let at above-market rents, Mr Hunt said: "We let our developments so well that some of them are now over rented — so you cannot win."

Land Securities shares jumped from 592p to 616p on a surprise 2.4 per cent boost to net asset value to 693p. Profits rose from £234 million to £241 million and the company is increasing the dividend by 4

per cent to 25p, in spite of a fall in earnings per share from 35.66p to 34.56p.

John Atkins, property analyst at UBS, said that many Land Securities investors were attracted by the security of the stock but added: "I would say all of that is taken for granted. What an investor should be looking for is top-quartile earnings and dividends growth. If you want security, why not buy gilts?"

Jim Murray, Land Securities' finance director conceded that profits could decline due to the cost of the company's £370 million development programme and its policy of not capitalising interest. "We have the scope to grow the dividend by reducing cover," he indicated. Dividend cover fell in the year from 1.48 times to 1.41 times and the City is expecting it to fall to 1.2 times before

rental income from developments benefits profits in the year ending March 1998.

The three-year development plan will add some 2.1 million sq ft of space to Land Securities' £5.1 billion portfolio which showed a marginal revaluation surplus of £27 million. Out-of-town retail properties were the main beneficiaries with a 3.4 per cent rise in value and Land's properties in London's West End and Victoria rose 2.1 per cent.

Mr Hunt said that rental growth had not matched expectations: "There is a bit of growth but it is patchy." He predicted that good quality retail property would show growth this year but said that older ribbon developments in town centres might have to convert back into housing.

Tempus, page 28

## Countryside warning on profits

Countryside Properties, one of the largest housebuilders in Greater London and the South East, gave a warning that current year profits might not exceed the results of the previous 12 months even though turnover was expected to reach a record level.

In spite of the depressed state of the housing market, Countryside expects to build and sell more speculative homes this year and build a record number of homes for housing associations.

In the half-year to March 31, profits dropped to £3.1 million before tax, from £3.7 million, in spite of a rise in turnover to £79.6 million, from £67.8 million. Earnings were 2.9p, down from 4.1p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.41p a share, which is payable September 6.

## Sunset stake in Music Box

Sunset + Vine, the independent television producer, is buying a majority share in a producer of music programmes and children's videos. The sellers of Music Box are Virgin Broadcasting, Yorkshire Television and Lifetime Group.

Sunset is paying £635,000 in cash and allotting Virgin shares worth £112,000 at yesterday's market price. Music Box makes programmes for ITV's Night Network and has commissions to produce children's videos for the sell-through market.

## Care payout

Care UK, the nursing homes and sheltered accommodation company, is returning to the dividend list, with an interim payment of 0.25p a share due July 14, after earning taxable profits of £1.16 million in the half-year to March 31, compared with £761,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 2.07p (1.16p) a share.

## Back in profit

Merchant Retail Group, the retail stores group, recovered to profits of £1.08 million before tax in the year to April 1, from losses of £4.9 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were 1.04p a share, compared with losses of 6.01p. Dividend payments will resume "as soon as prudence permits", the company said.

## Lionheart sale

Lionheart, the consumer products company, is selling Sloane, a subsidiary involved in the design and manufacture of bespoke retail merchandising systems, to Princesdale Group for £10 million, including the assumption of £3 million of debt.

## Daimler-Benz chief goes



Fiery departure: Edzard Reuter, who retires today as head of Daimler-Benz, with his successor as management board chairman Jürgen Schrempp, left. Herr Reuter said yesterday, that the strong mark and "irresponsibly high" wages threatened the very fibre of much of Germany's industry. Retiring after

eight years as head of Germany's industrial flagship, he attacked German politicians for failing to address the issue of international competitiveness and said economic conditions could force Daimler to shift more production abroad. Herr Reuter, 67, was speaking at Daimler's annual meeting in Stuttgart.

## Pension deadline for part-timers

By ROBERT MILLER

THOUSANDS of part-time workers are set to lodge claims with industrial tribunals for backdated pension rights before a May 31 deadline.

By last night, more than 45,000 claims had been submitted by part-time workers anxious to secure the best possible pensions deal.

After May 31, part-time workers will be allowed to backdate their claim for past pension rights for only two years. Those who do beat the deadline, however, could be allowed to backdate their claims to 1976, if appropriate.

The deadline has been set by the Government, but the trigger for the cut-off point was a series of landmark rulings by the European Court of Justice last September. In two specific test cases, the court ruled that the exclusion of part-timers from an employer's pension scheme could constitute indirect sex

discrimination. The court ruled that limitation periods for backdating part-timers' pension rights were a matter for national governments.

The UK Government used the Equal Pay Act of 1970, which sets a retrospective two-year limit on claims, as its guide. However, advisers to the TUC take another view.

Sarah Veale, senior policy officer at the TUC, said: "We are hoping to run some test cases and our best advice is that we can go back to 1976 based on another European Court test case involving an employee of Sabena, the Belgian airline."

The TUC is negotiating with a number of employers to introduce a block deal for employees to join their company pension schemes and, where possible, for the employer to fund the backdated contribution by means of a loan.

## EU move over mergers

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

NEW powers to vet mergers was seeking, although he insisted that increased powers to make or break mergers "would provide more legal certainty" for firms. National governments, fearing any further loss of sovereignty to Brussels, have resisted previous Commission attempts to revise the intervention thresholds downwards.

The announcement heralds another round of acrimonious round of talks over who has the power to do what.

The Commission's annual competition report, unveiled yesterday, showed that the number of mergers reported to Brussels rose to a record 95 in 1994, up from 58 the previous year. There had also been a substantial increase in the number of proposed

threshold the Commission was seeking, although he insisted that increased powers to make or break mergers "would provide more legal certainty" for firms. National governments, fearing any further loss of sovereignty to Brussels, have resisted previous Commission attempts to revise the intervention thresholds downwards.

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mergers where the Commission had to demand changes to preserve the integrity of the internal market. The year saw the break up of "no fewer than three hardcore cartels," the report said.

"The breaking down of (internal) borders facilitates more intense competition in which only the more efficient will survive," the report said. "But it has to go hand in hand with the efficient control of mergers to ensure they do not endanger the development of effective competition on the market," it added.

The report said however that the illegal use of state subsidies to help to prop up flagging industries was still widespread, and that a further clampdown was in the pipeline.







[illegible][illegible]







## CINEMA

Could you write a screenplay with the panoramic sweep and epic themes of *Gone With the Wind*?

## CINEMA

... or one that rivals *Four Weddings and a Funeral* for wit, warmth and romance?

THE TIMES  
ARTS

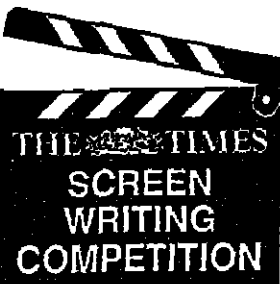
## CINEMA

Would Anthony Hopkins just love to get his teeth into your dark and subtle dialogue?

## CINEMA

If so, enter our competition and you could soon be pitching your ideas to the big studios

## Write yourself into the movies



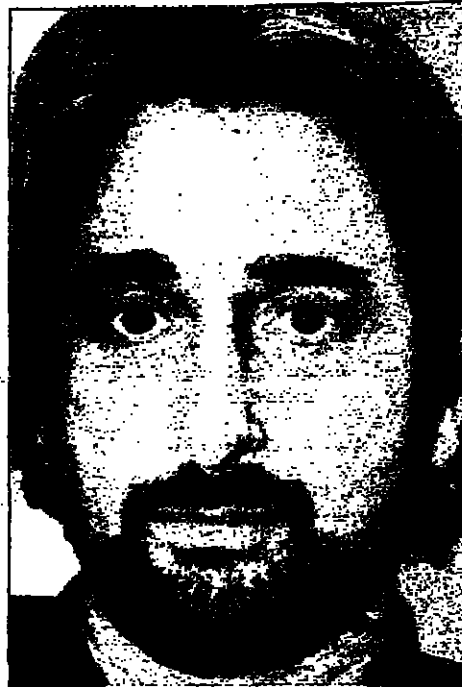
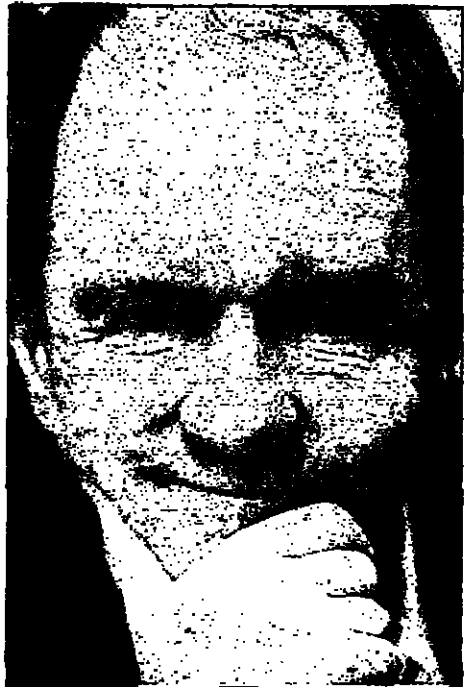
A competition for screenwriters? But surely, by the time they reach the restaurant around the corner from the cinema, everybody who has just seen a great movie knows exactly how to write the perfect screenplay?

And hey, why don't we double the box office by giving audiences *Pulp Fiction* and *Four Weddings* combined? Get a load of this: two hitmen drive to a series of toff wedding ceremonies in Sussex — discussing along the way things like foot massage and what they call cheeseburgers in France — and then they shoot some of the wedding guests, often accidentally. Got it? So quick — book me first class to LA and reserve me Warren Beatty's old suite at the Beverly Wilshire.

Jeanne Moreau, like most people in the business, knows that it is rarely that easy. She once complained to a roomful



"We've got great film directors, actors, technicians. What Britain lacks is writers": Tim Bevan, Norma Heyman, Mark Shivas and David Aukin will be judging the Times competition



of film-makers that if the screenwriters she had been reading made chairs, they would all be sitting on their backsides. Mel Brooks once swore that "anybody can direct: there are only 11 good writers". Millions would like to be No 12.

"It's an enormous pleasure to read a great script," says Mark Shivas, who commis-

sions up to 20 films a year for the BBC. "It makes up for all the dross. The ones that give you pleasure when you read them, like *The Snapper* and *Truly, Madly, Deeply* — I'd be lucky if I read one or two of those a month."

And it's not just the shortage of good screenplays, but how few are home-grown that saddens British producers. Where, Tim Bevan wants to know, are Britain's great screenwriters? Why aren't their signatures on the 50 to 100 film scripts that arrive every week at his production company, Working Title?

Which is not the same as saying that there isn't British talent. There is, and Bevan admires and hires it: his first movie was *My Beautiful Laundrette* and his most successful was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, both penned in Britain. But there isn't enough of it. "We've got directors, we've got actors who can open films. We have great technicians. What is lacking is the writing."

Today we launch *The Times Screenwriting Competition*, designed to find that rare talent in modern cinema — the gifted writer. Our competition is open to anybody writing in English and aged 16 or over. The winner will take an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood to pitch his or her idea to the leading studios. For details of how to enter, see below (right). The judges are Tim Bevan of Working Title, which made *Four Weddings and a Funeral*; Norma Heyman, who produced *Dangerous Liaisons*; Mark Shivas, head of film at the BBC; and David Aukin, head of drama at Channel 4. Here they explain what they are looking for.

"There are a lot of good scriptwriters in Britain, but they are in TV. What we are not good at is writing a small idea on a big canvas, which is what the Americans are good at." Another Bevan gripe: "British writers don't understand collaboration the way American writers do. Film is a collaborative process."

Norma Heyman, the inde-

pendent producer of *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Honourable Consul*, agrees. "A lot of British scriptwriters deliver a script and think that's it." She is about to film Christopher Hampton's script of Conrad's *The Secret Agent*. "American scriptwriters deliver a script knowing that they'll be pruning and honing. It's a problem. British screenwriters must

face: there is a process of collaboration, and it's called film-making."

Shivas, too, echoes this "unwillingness of writers to work on refining their script," but says that it may be a function of not paying enough. "If you get a Hollywood-size whack, maybe you expect to rewrite."

The money is improving here, but anyone expecting to become a millionaire overnight faces the same odds as a drama-school graduate expecting to become as big as Robert De Niro: it's possible, but not for everyone. A new writer for a modestly budgeted British feature film might draw £20,000 for delivering several drafts. A big name might get three times that.

Still, many writers who envy Joe "Basic Instinct" Eszterhas's pay cheque, and who may have misunderstood Alfred Hitchcock's quip that "the cinema is not a slice of life, but a piece of cake", settle on a screenwriting career. After all, Hollywood makes 500 movies a year and one of

them might as well be yours.

So what's the trick, Tim? "A story," says Bevan, "that catches your attention, and good characters that are believable. If those two criteria are met then you are probably within the top half per cent of screenplays. And there's good structure and, for us at Working Title, commerciality."

Shivas knows he can start getting excited when the script has "interesting characters, who usually have some ambitions, who are setting out on a course of action: scenes where they don't necessarily talk a great deal, where there is some inner clock ticking — though that doesn't mean it has to be a thriller."

Repetition is Shivas's early warning system for disappointment: when the script starts telling you things you already know. "People start telling each other what they already know, or telling you things you don't need to know. Scripts where the characters are called 'Man 1' and 'Man 2', 'Woman 1' and 'Woman 2'."

Scripts that are set in no particular place.

For David Aukin, executive director of the National Theatre until he took over Channel 4's drama and film output in 1990, the sign of a good screenplay is whether the writer has an individual voice. "All our most successful films show this at an early stage. It's no coincidence that the three Oscar nominations we got this year were all for screenplays. For us that's the beginning, the middle and the end."

What else? "It's important that people should be true to themselves," he says. "You can't second-guess an audience. Or Hollywood. Even as successful and 'Hollywood' a film as *Forrest Gump* was turned down by every studio in Hollywood. It was only made because Tom Hanks wanted to make it."

"One of the essentials of screenwriting is the power of the narrative — people fighting off sleepiness because they want to know what happens next. To get it right needs hard work. You can't just toss it off."

"Try it out on your friends," advises Aukin, who gets perhaps 5,000 film scripts and outlines a year — some from writers known to all of us, others known only to their mothers. "As soon as you see their eyes glaze over, then you know it's time to start again. Audiences are much more sophisticated than people give them credit for. They are used to taking in narrative: TV commercials tell a whole story in 30 seconds."

Heyman detects the whiff of a stinker when she collides into "over-writing, over-elaboration, over-exposition. The characters have to be clear from what they do. Learn to pare down. Realise that the camera can speak. A glance, a reaction, the back of a head can also speak. And don't give everything away in the first five minutes. Make me want to turn the page."

JOE JOSEPH

## BBC Symphony Orchestra

Friday 26 May Royal Festival Hall 7.30pm

Libor Pešek conductor  
Raphael Oleg violin  
Novák Eternal Longing  
Szymanowski Violin Concerto No. 1  
Strauss Also sprach Zarathustra

All seats £10 and unreserved.  
25 for children, students, unemployed and over 60s.  
Phone 0171 928 8800 to book your tickets.



Libor Pešek

## Grey areas exposed in the high street

HOW much influence does radio have? Outside the political sphere, I suspect the answer is "not much". If that is correct, then programmes that expose practices which adversely affect the listener are not serving any purpose beyond informing the listeners that they are being sinned against and giving the programme-maker good feelings. These are not small achievements but it is a pity that the larger achievement of getting something changed appears to be left, in broadcasting, to television.

I doubt, for example, that anything much will come of Tuesday's *Face the Facts* (Radio 4). But that something should come of it cannot be in doubt.

The programme's theme was competition policy in business and it demonstrated that high street competition is often a joke. Consumers have known this for some time, for as we prowled the high street in search of a television, say, we soon discover that when it comes to pricing the main shops seem to be in some sort of psychic communion.

In one case, *Face the Facts* took a particular television set, which one could buy for as little as £499 in one shop or, £499 in another, and then went off to London's favourite electric bazaar, also known as the Tottenham Court Road. There, the television could be bought for £425. The dealer had got it through the "grey market", which is perfectly legal but frowned on by manufacturers. So frowned upon that the dealer could not risk advertising the television at that price, because if he did the manufacturers would send a man around to tell him off.

We also learnt that the high street chain Boots can sell what we call perfume but what Givenchy, Estée Lauder or at all "fine fragrances", but the high street trader Superdrug cannot, except through the grey market. Why? Because the fragrance-makers do not think Superdrug has the "right image".

Can something be done about this nonsense? Not by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which has recently become moribund. So moribund that whereas seven years ago the MMC forced brewers to let other beers into their tied pubs, it recently

## RADIO REVIEW

ruled that the refusal of Walls to let other ice-creams into shops it supplied was not against the public interest.

Nor is there much hope from the Office of Fair Trading, which is toothless. Indeed,

as *Face the Facts* showed, the European Commission can walk into a British shop without notice and demand to see the books, but the OFT apparently cannot.

This is scandalous. Some-

thing should be done. Perhaps all those late-opening high street electrical goods shops had their price-fixed radios tuned to *Face the Facts* and will now, all shame and contrition, start slashing prices willy-nilly. Dream on.

PETER BARNARD

"A DEEPLY FELT AND TOUCHING STORY...PRICELESS MOMENTS..."

SHE WAS WORTH LIVING FOR... WORTH KILLING FOR...

ROSIE PEREZ HARVEY KEITEL  
ANTHONY QUINN MICHAEL DE LORENZO

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

FROM JUNE 2 CURZON WEST END EXCLUSIVE UK PRESENTATION  
SHAFTSBOURY AVENUE 0171-439 4905

THE TIMES  
Win the chance to be a  
Hollywood scriptwriter

The Times starts a competition today to find the country's brightest and best filmwriting talent.

First prize is an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood with introductions for the winner to pitch their script to the major studios. Accommodation will be at the famed Chateau Marmont Hotel, haunt of screenwriters on Sunset Boulevard.

The first five runners-up (and the winner) will be given places at workshops run by the judges to help develop their scripts. Five more runners-up will each win a place on one of the UK screenwriting courses run by Robert McKee, among the best-known Los Angeles film teachers.

The competition judges are at the top in British film-making. They are: David Aukin, head of drama at Channel 4 Television; Tim Bevan, managing director of Working Title Films; Norma Heyman, managing director of NFI Productions; and Mark Shivas, who commissions about 20 films a year for BBC Television.

Our hunt for talent is in earnest. Tim Bevan says: "This competition puts the finger on our weakness in Britain. We've got directors, actors like Anthony Hopkins, Hugh Grant, Daniel Day-Lewis and Emma Thompson. We have funding. And great technicians. What is lacking is the writing for the cinema."

The competition is open to anyone aged

16 and over, writing in the English language, who has no feature-film credits in the professional cinema.

## HOW TO ENTER

Send us a 100-word selling paragraph for your film which includes the title; a treatment of not more than 750 words incorporating story, characters, structure and genre; plus one sample scene with dialogue. Original film treatments only will be considered: adaptations or wholly animated films are not eligible. Enclose four of the six tokens we are publishing over the next week on page four or five of the newspaper. Your name, address and daytime telephone number must be on the first sheet of the treatment. The judges' decision is final. Entries must be typed and double-spaced. A stamped-addressed envelope must be enclosed if you wish your entry to be returned. Send your entry to *The Times* Screenwriting Competition, PO Box 2248, Colchester CO2 8NQ.

Normal Times competition rules apply: rules sent on request. Closing date for entries is first post on Monday, June 26 1995.

The competition organisers, and judges on behalf of their respective organisations, make it clear that any submitted entries are for the purpose of the competition only. In addition, none of these parties can accept responsibility or liability in respect of any future production which may inadvertently bear a resemblance to any treatment or script submitted.

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## ■ NEW FILMS 2

**The engagingly titled *Sexual Life of the Belgians* proves to be more eccentric than erotic**

**CINEMA** **Geoff Brown** on *Ed Wood*, the tale of a man who thought he was a great director, told by one who is

The ever-enthusiastic director Ed Wood (Johnny Depp) pitches yet another dead loss of an idea in Tim Burton's brilliant tribute to the king of the Z movie

A far more artful child performer, the fast-aging Macaulay Culkin, disfigures the screen in *Richie Rich*, a redundant comedy directed by Donald Richie and inspired by the antics of a comic book family. Richie's parents — philanthropic, happy zillionaires — appear amiable enough, but their offspring is the most unpleasant. During the plot this cosseted boy learns the value of friendship with moneyless kids; hard to square this with the Culkin money-making machine, or the film's dull, expensive training.

**NOW SHOWING**

**ODEON** LEICESTER SQUARE  
Wages 2.10 5.25 6.40 Late Show Sat Sun 14.50pm  
AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS SCOTLAND

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**MGM** CHURCHILL  
**UCL** WHITEFRIARS  
**GREENWICH CINEMA** 081 853 0053

**AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**





# TONIGHT 1

With Natalie Cole in the line-up, the BBC parades its wares in its Birmingham show. Music Live '95



# TONIGHT 2

Robert Lepage brings his surreal staging of Strindberg's *Dream Play* to Glasgow Tramway

# THE TIMES ARTS



# THEATRE

Judi Dench is in fine form leading a National revival of *Absolute Hell*. Rodney Ackland's sour 1952 drama



# OPERA

Birtwistle's bizarre but gripping *The Second Mrs Kong* arrives at Glyndebourne

## LONDON

**FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE.** The post is jumping again now that Clark Kent's celebrated musical has bounced back into the West End. Opening night for a most welcome return.

**THE DUCHESS OF MALFI.** First night of previews for the one-stop-a-time acceptance of tyranny. Lenka Udovitch directs a cast headed by Malcolm Treway and Frances de la Tour.

**TURNING WORLD.** The fifth annual dance festival gets under way this week, featuring Frank's acclaimed S.O.A.P. Dance Theatre. Celebrations take in ten companies from Europe, Canada and Australia for a series of innovative work that pushes the barriers of contemporary dance ideas.

**ELSEWHERE** Natalie Cole, the team of Clark Kent and Michael Ball, Ned Sherrin, East 17, Manic Street Preachers and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

**ANDREW DAVIS** and the BBC Symphony Orchestra are just some of the familiar faces taking part in *Music Live '95*. Five days of events are scattered across the city but if you can't be there or can't get a ticket, don't worry — it is all broadcast live on BBC Radio 2.

**GLASGOW.** A coup for the Tramway. Robert Lepage directs his dramatic production of Strindberg's *A Dream Play*. The actors are confined within a three-metre cube suspended above the stage. Performances are in Swedish with English subtitles.

**MANCHESTER.** Kent Nagano takes up the baton tonight for the last concert in the Hallé Orchestra season. Mozart's Symphony No. 15 opens the performance, followed by Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* and his grandiose tone-poem *Ein Heldenleben* (A Hero's Life). Soprano Gundula Janowitz is the soloist.

**BIRMINGHAM.** Natalie Cole, the team of Clark Kent and Michael Ball, Ned Sherrin, East 17, Manic Street Preachers and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and

**THEATRE GUIDE** Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only available. Seats at all prices.

**THE DUCHESS OF MALFI.** Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beckett in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the breakdown of the mind.

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## LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican Art Centre. Graphic Retrospective (171-438 4141).

British Museum. Two Panels from the Ceiling of Henry VIII's Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster, Room 42 (171-638 1553).

Lloyd Whynes in Chicago (171-407 8261).

Festival Hall. Art Unlimited Multiples of the 1960s and 1980s (171-428 3002).

Design Museum. Frank Lloyd Whynes in Chicago (171-407 8261).

National Gallery. Caricature on Shoshone (171-428 3002).

Portrait Gallery. The Road from 1945. Richard Avedon (171-306 0059).

Supermarket. Mark Wallinger (171-407 8261).

Tate. Turner in Germany. British Sporting Art (171-887 8000).

V&A. Pictorial Prints. A History of British Book Illustration (171-926 8500).

Whitechapel. Guillermo Kuitca (171-522 7888).

**TRUE LIES.** Beautifully acted devised play of two young men, one a young Irish traveller, uneasy on tour comments and looking for guidelines.

**A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE.** David Thewlis's acclaimed production, with Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman concerned by unrequited love for his niece.

**LONG RUNNERS.** U. Arendt. Haymarket (171-330 8000).

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# Prisoners of the blackout

## THEATRE

*Absolute Hell* Lyttelton

THIS was not the last play Rodney Ackland wrote, but its atrocious reception by the London critics in 1952 — when it was titled, in a slightly different version, *The Pink Room* — sapped his creative juices so that its production was the crisis and climax of his career. He was only 44 and lived another 40 years, not writing the plays that might have developed from it.

The Royal Court revolution of 1956, which swept drawing-room comedy into the dustbin, carried Ackland away with the spring-cleaning. That was most unfair, since his style of writing was tougher, more perceptive and less reassuring than the stuff that gave British theatre of the 1930s and 1940s such a bad name.

*Absolute Hell* is a striking example of his thoroughly unconventional stance. It is set in a West End drinking club, La Vie en Rose, on three days in the summer of 1945, and its last scene coincides with the declaration of Labour's victory in the general election. In the house across the road Labour supporters are toasting the start of a political era, but in the club an era has ended. The building has been declared unsafe, the licence has not been renewed, and Christine, the middle-aged owner running to fat (Judi Dench), is left alone, angry and terrified.

The events we have witnessed taking place under her aegis are far from being a cosy celebration of London black-out in time of war and newly-won peace. That is the conventional and popular approach of Coward — where lovable Cockneys show grit, and artists, generally, are terribly brave. The habits of La Vie en Rose cope with discomfort by denying its reality with drink, sex and pipe-dreams.

Ackland's discarded subtitle for the play was *The Escapists*.



(From left) Richard McCabe, Pip Torrens, Greg Hicks, Judi Dench, Peter Woodthorpe and William Osborne find themselves left behind by a changing world in *Absolute Hell*

and he assembles a rich cast of Bohemians to strut and loiter and flop under the glittering pink chandelier. Most have sapped their potential, but one — and not the least likely, which would be a cliché — finds an alternative to idle reverie and bitchiness. For outside the rose-tinted confines of the club the horror of the Nazi death camps has been uncovered, and news of a survivor is one of the many stories woven into the play.

Ackland's style draws on the example of Chekhov with every character coming into each scene, however briefly, and the intricate splicing together of so many different lives gives the play its remarkable richness. It is a little long, although only a little, and directed with distinction by Anthony Page as he shifts the mood between comedy and dismay.

In a cast that includes strong performances from

among others, Sheila Burrell, Peter Woodthorpe, and Pip Torrens, two particularly stand out: Dench's edgy Christine, on the cusp between the busy and the blowsy, desperate for anything to keep her sane; and Greg Hicks as Hugh, the author, ridiculously apologetic, his backbone rippling with anxiety, voice daring after random thoughts.

JEREMY KINGSTON

# Touches of insight

## RECITAL

Ivo Pogorelich Festival Hall

ECCENTRIC genius or over-promoted charlatan? The pianist Ivo Pogorelich is certainly heavily promoted, but he is, I am convinced, no fraud. On the other hand, although his playing is irradiated with flashes of genius, it lacks the consistency and good judgment expected from a truly great artist.

His curious Festival Hall programme on Tuesday night consisted of Mussorgsky and Chopin only: the former's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, the latter's *Prelude in C Sharp Minor* Op 45 and the *Four Scherzos*.

The frustrating thing about Pogorelich's playing is that it can be so good. But invariably the effect is squandered by some ill-conceived gesture: often a phrase whisked away before it has had a chance to register, or — Pogorelich's besetting sin — ugly tone produced by the thumping of notes or chords.

The most successful movements of *Pictures* were an agile *Les Tendes*, a light, nimble-fingered *Ballet of the Chicks in the Bush*, and a dazzling *Market at Langoon*. There were some disconcerting hauntings in *The Old Castle*. However, and some unsettling mis-hits and lapses of memory — most spectacularly in the final moments of *The Great Gate of Kiev*, where some 20 bars were omitted.

The second encore turned out to be another attempt at the end of *Pictures*. This time the *Great Gate* was swung open to its full extent, though there were still some individual Pogorelich harmonies that I suspect Mussorgsky would not have considered an improvement.

BARRY MILINGTON

# Kong back on song

## OPERA

*The Second Mrs Kong* Glyndebourne

amplification of voices, rather marked than before: nothing is more calculated to muddy diction. Heedless amplification has more or less killed off popular music theatre, and it would be a pity if it were allowed to do the same upstairs: in this respect (but no other) Birtwistle is in danger of becoming the Andrew Lloyd Webber of opera.

These are rectifiable details: *Mrs Kong* remains a spellbinding, original and rather surprising piece. After so much harrowing ritual from *Punch*

and *Judy* onwards, it is odd — but nice — that Birtwistle should have composed so overtly romantic an opera. Of course certain concerns are further developed — journeys, repetition, Orpheus, behavings, sudden death — but at the piece's heart is a sentimental love story told with wry good humour. Kong establishes while watching himself on a video that he doesn't really exist, any more than his unlikely innamorata, Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring. When they finally meet all they can do is remember what they said to each other when surfing the net. In the world of the librettist, Russell Hoban, it isn't love that makes the world go round, but "the longing for what cannot be".

The muscular lyricism of the music, up to and including a finale of Straussian grandeur, the fitness of

effects (the soprano of Parli's Mirror mingling with Orpheus's counter-tenor), the jokes (telephone ringing insistently from the pit) the marvelous writing for saxophone and cimbalo, all are fresh, inventive and easy on the ear. And anyone still imagining that Birtwistle does not write gratefully for the voice will find living proof to the contrary in the beautiful phrasing of Philip Langridge in his quizzical, hugely-vouching performance as Kong, in the ravishing sounds made by Michael Chance as Orpheus, and in Helen Field's lustrous singing as Pearl.

The Tom Cairns/Aleta Collins production remains a bewitching combination of quirky wit and visual imagination, the whole nigglingly lit by Wolfgang Göbbel. The show sounds and looks wonderful, it's funny and it's curiously moving. What more could you want?

RODNEY MILNES

## ENTERTAINMENTS

### CABARET

**THE GREEN ROOM** at the Cheetah Room. London's Premier Cabaret Night.

### BLOSSOM DEARIE

16 May, 7.30pm, 1995. Resident band, jazz and dancing. Until 31st May. Tickets: £10.00. For booking please call 0171 437 9999.

### OPERA & BALLET

**COLUMBIUM** 0171 832 8000 (24hr). ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. TONY & JULIA PERP. DON GIOVANNI. 7.30 A Midsummer Night's Dream. Glyndebourne Festival Opera with the London Philharmonic. Sat, 31 May at 8.00pm, Sun 25 May at 5pm. The Second Mrs Kong. Seats from £32. Tue 30 May at 5.30pm. Enquiries: Possible returns only. 01223 82823.

### THEATRES

**ADOLPH** "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" West End. SUNSET BOULEVARD. Starring BLAKE BLOOM and JOHN BARROWMAN. 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS. CALL 0171 344 0252 (day line). GPF BOOKING 0171 344 0252 (day line). NO BOOKING FEE. PERSONAL CALLS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE. Recorded information 0171 370 8884. Mon-Sat 7.45 Mon-Sat 8.30. Sun 3.00.

### APOLLO VICTORIA

0171 416 8043. 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000. Gps 0171 416 8075/413 3321. Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of.

### STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mat. White knuckle ride 16.45 daily. Tue & Sat 15.00. Tickets from £12.50.

### APOLLO VICTORIA

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0171 416 8043. 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000. Gps 0171 416 8075/413 3321. Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of.

### CRITERION

0171 438 8891. MGM. Tottenham Court Road. 0171 438 8891. 0171 438 8891.

### MY NIGHT WITH REG

By Kevin Egan. Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of.

### DOMINION

0171 416 8043. 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000. Gps 0171 416 8075/413 3321. Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of.

### DUKE OF YORKS

0171 438 8891. MGM. Tottenham Court Road. 0171 438 8891. 0171 438 8891.

### UNFORGETTABLE

The Musical. 0171 438 8891. 0171 438 8891.

### DESIGN FOR LIVING

By Sean Mathias. 0171 438 8891. 0171 438 8891.

### GARRICK

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# Good servant, bad master

Oliver Letwin is persuaded by a bold diagnosis of the State's threat to our liberties, but not by the cure

In an age when vague rhetoric and incomprehensible jargon predominate, bold and clear statements are at a premium: *Saturn's Children* falls firmly into the class of bold and clear statements. It is, moreover, in certain respects an unexpected work, since it advances a form of what I can only call puritan libertarianism. Its authors, Alan Duncan, MP, and Dominic Hobson (two notable Tory ideologues), believe passionately in the duty of the individual, the sanctity of marriage and family, the merit of hard work in small business, the glory of charitable association, and the divine origin of moral obligation. In these respects they are puritans.

At the same time the authors abhor the State, public subsidy, and large anonymous corporations: they wish to free the individual from intrusive regulation and excessive taxation; and they argue for restraint on the part of the police as well as for the legalisation of drugs. In these respects they are libertarians. The thesis — which ties together these two, ostensibly discordant attitudes — is negative in character and reactionary in conception. It is a polemic against the now commonplace assertion that Thatcherism is responsible for the dissolution of "society" and "community" in Britain. Duncan and Hobson maintain that the cause of decline in social and moral standards has been, not 15 years of Thatcherism, but 50 years of "social democracy" and "Christian socialism".

The burden of the authors' argument is that morality and civilisation can survive only in a society where individuals live, in the true sense, together. That is, where they accept responsibility both for their own lives and for the lives of other persons closely tied to them, through bonds of common purpose and affection, as in families, friendships and small, jointly owned or voluntary enterprises. The authors claim that where these conditions are absent, morality and civilisation are under threat: lack of civic concern, crime, and violence will — they argue — inevitably follow wherever individuals, deprived of a genuine inter-personal life, live only as digits within large, anonymous corporations, shifting loosely through uncaring proxies for family life, devoid of firmly anchored standards and with little or no sense of control over their own existence in the face of the overwhelming power of the State. Hence it is the duty of the State to withdraw from governmental intervention of the kind that suffocates or replaces the initiative of individuals or small platoons. At the same time it should reinforce by law and by fiscal encouragement the institutions within society that sustain the individual's sense of self and of true inter-personal duty: marriage, inheritance, small enterprise, voluntary association. This is the Socratic paradox by which Duncan and Hobson turn libertarianism into an argument for puritanism and vice versa.

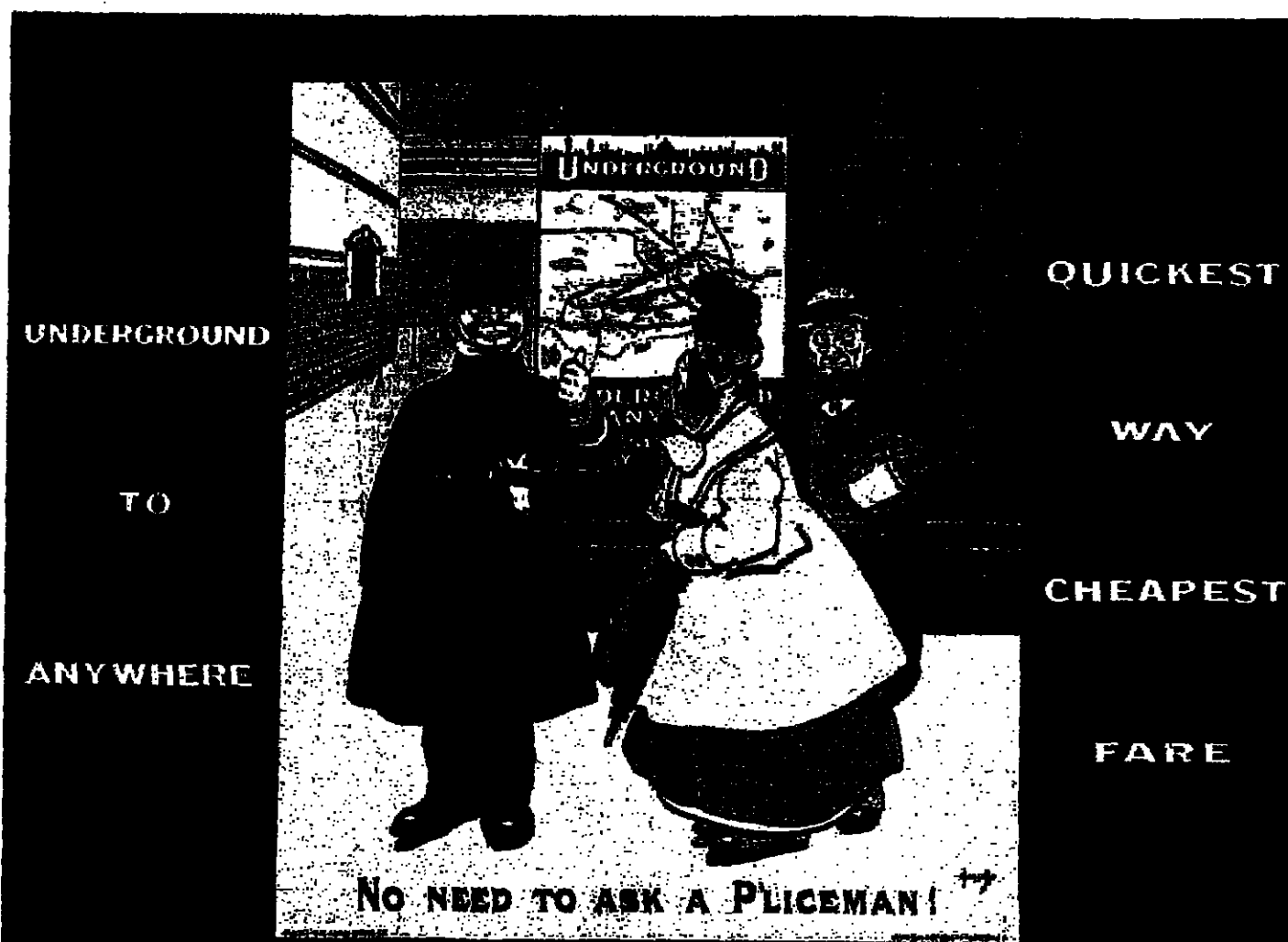
The manner in which Duncan and Hobson make the argument goes, at times, beyond the bold and clear, verging on the eccentric. Witness, for example, this passage on the greatest philosopher of modern times: "It is now thought that Wittgenstein was clinically insane, but in their time his obscure ideas did much to destroy confidence in philosophy as a guide to right actions." To adapt a phrase of Mrs Thatcher's, this is wrong, wrong and wrong.

The positive "solutions" to the stifling of freedom and the collapse of morality advanced in the final chapter of the book are also — while in some cases helpful — too hastily sketched, and collectively too slight to match the grandeur and scope of the negative thesis advanced in the rest of the book. It would be quite wrong, however, to carp excessively about these lacunae. The great merit of the work is that it contains the germ of two ideas that are at once unusual and profound: first, that government has as its true purpose the mission of reinforcing inter-personal moral relationships; and second, that instead of fulfilling this purpose, government has in fact atomised society, by substituting the anonymities of the State and large enterprises for the true inter-personal institutions which arise from individual choice and individual effort. These are observations which will repay serious thought: they constitute, at the

least, a far more interesting and fruitful response to our current social predicament than the trite clichés of the newly fashionable ideology of "communitarianism".

Oliver Letwin is head of the privatisation unit at N.M. Rothschild and Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for West Dorset.

**SATURN'S CHILDREN**  
How the State Devours Liberty and Prosperity  
By Alan Duncan and Dominic Hobson  
Sindair-Stevenson, £16.99



One of the earliest posters for the London Underground, drawn by John Hassall and issued in 1908, one of many fine illustrations in *Designed for London: 150 Years of Transport Design* by Oliver Green and Jeremy Rewse-Davies (Laurence King, £19.95). The Underground, built and operated for decades with private capital, was not absorbed into state-run London Transport until 1933

## Whom did Zeus send mad and whence did Hannibal come?

Richard Jenkyns

**WHOM GODS DESTROY**  
Elements of Greek and Tragic Madness  
By Ruth Padel  
Princeton, £19.95

How odd it is that Greek tragedy has been thought to exemplify classical balance and serenity. The Greek dramatists deal with extremes of emotion. Sophocles's Ajax, driven insane, slaughters sheep and cattle, believing them to be his fellow Greeks. Orestes in Aeschylus's *Libation Bearers* has his mind filled with the Furies — not perhaps madness, but certainly a psychic invasion. The *Eumenides* of Aeschylus seems different yet again: here Orestes seems entirely sane, but the Furies, like hunting dogs, attack him from without.

In *Whom Gods Destroy*, a lively and provocative book, Ruth Padel acknowledges the wide range of troubled or deluded states of mind which Greek literature portrays, but she is too quick to lump them all into the category of madness. Her approach to this fascinating and difficult topic is largely through a detailed survey of the words the Greeks used for these states. At times she is illuminating, but there can be risks in too lexical an approach. "Mad about the boy", "he's completely maddening", "she was real mad at me" — a Marrian historian would go badly astray if he judged English-speakers' understanding of madness from such usages. We must always be alert for metaphor, and for language's flexibility, wit and allusiveness.

It is a further problem that Padel is such an enthusiastic scavenger: she has a lot to get off her chest, and seems to feel that she must cram it all into the hold-all labelled "mad". The mad in tragedy are often raging, in Greek *mainomenos*. It does not follow that the raging are always mad. Padel turns raging Dionysus into a "mad god". That has a primitive, anthropological flavour, appealing to the modern mind, but it is wrong.

The heroes in Homer's *Iliad* sometimes rage on the battlefield, and Padel pronounces them mad too. That at the least lacks nuance, though it is true that Homeric warriors may get into a berserker state. She goes more clearly astray in handling the elusive word *ate*, something like "folly" or "delusion", which she describes as mental damage. Homer's Agamemnon insults Achilles by taking away his concubine, and later both these men, at different times, declare that Agamemnon was under the influence of *ate* sent by Zeus. But there is no question of madness, only of arrogance and foolishness.

One fascination of the Greek conception of the gods' influence on



The mad Colossus of Bomarzo (c. 1560), from *The Seven Wonders of the World* by John Romer (Michael O'Mara, £19.99)

Ross Leckie

**CARTHAGE**  
A History  
By Serge Lancel  
Blackwell, £19.95

I was in the arduous struggle to defeat Carthage that Rome found herself. Through more than 300 years of war she forged those institutions and qualities that shaped the Western world, for good or ill, as we still know it. What if Rome had lost? Based on Carthaginian and not Roman models, what would our world be like? Not since B. H. Warmington's 1969 *Carthage* has anyone written an account which might offer an answer. That great city, home to Dido and to Hannibal, heart of a vast trading empire even before Rome was founded, was utterly erased, its people scattered, its literature and language lost.

Patently, meticulously, Professor Lancel reconstructs a vanished civilisation from what he admits are poor and scattered pickings. He clearly knows Carthage like an old shoe and loves it like a son. The key to his success lies in the range of his learning. He amasses all the evi-

dence — literary, archaeological, numismatic, epigraphic, phonological — then sits as firmly on top of it as would one of his beloved "protocorinthian pot-bellied arylloids". The result is not for the faint-hearted. There are a lot of "sondages" and "scarabocoids" in Lancel's stratigraphy and he assumes that readers will know their *bucchero nero* from their *sottile*. He cannot quite put down his archaeological trowel. Yet he does resist the besetting sin of his genre — forcing textual and archaeological evidence to agree. If, as with the question of the date of Carthage's foundation, they do not, he is content to say so.

There is great drama in his book. Indiana Jones appears in the form of Count Byron Khun de Prorock, digging furiously through Carthage's *tophet*, site of ritual infanticide. Then enter Père Delatre, a "red-haired and bearded colossus", tirelessly uncovering Punic cemeteries. There is even a villain, the mid-19th-century British consul in Tunis (regrettably unnamed) who demolished the great mausoleum at Dougga to get his hands on the inscription it contained.

Lancel guides us with a breathless but infectious enthusiasm. If his prose is sometimes clumsy, it may not have improved in Antonia Nevill's translation, while the 249 excellent and helpful maps and illustrations are too often marred by poor reproduction. The sections on Carthage's second Punic War against Rome are disappointing. The only thing Lancel has to add to de Beer's *Hannibal*, let alone to the ancient historians, is the undeniable conclusion that Hannibal never even hoped to destroy Rome.

Yet in several magisterial passages, Lancel contributes valuable insights into the nature of Carthage and the reasons for its failure against Rome. In his 650 years, he argues, Carthage never developed an identity of its own. Sitting uneasily between East and West, it was a melting-pot of cultures that proved, ultimately, unequal to Roman grit. Carthage was a head that never grew a body. Venice in the 16th century, Lancel rightly suggests, is a useful parallel.

Then, too, this book challenges the popular misconception of Romans as stolid plodders. Lancel points out how they first copied, then surpassed Carthaginian prowess at sea; how they absorbed the military lessons Hannibal taught them, and then beat the Carthaginians at their own game.

It is an epic story. Carthage has been for too long ignored; in its death was our birth. Both the generalist seeking to understand this process and the specialist seeking a full account of Carthage's archaeology will find much to treasure in this book.

Ross Leckie's first novel *Hannibal* will be published by Canongate in October.

## Rooms to let in a spectral world

*SO I AM GLAD* is a romance, but a romance which has been so disturbed by its author's bizarre imagination that the theme of love often seems marginalised. This, Kennedy's third novel, is as much about isolation, detachment and fragmentation, as it is about the growth of a relationship. The narrator, Jennifer Wilson, has what she calls "sentimental shortcomings". Her scarred childhood has left her emotionally barren. "Months and years burned away without changing what I came to see more and more clearly as an invincible lack of involvement on my part. Like manholes and poison bottles I was made to be self-locking."

She works as a radio announcer, a professional enunciator of news bulletins. Locked away behind the sound-proofed double doors of the recording studio with nothing but syllables for company, she retreats into the world of language. Words drift unanchored from their meanings. Her disembodied voice registers life with robotic dispassion.

Then into Jennifer's hermetic world comes someone even more alienated than herself. A lodger moves into her flat, a weirdly phosphorescent stranger struggling to recall lost memories. When he eventually declares that he is Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, the 17th-century poet, nobody seems any the wiser. As Savinien puts it: "I am out of my time, or out of my mind, which seems a simple choice, but I can't make it."

Kennedy is more concerned to estrange than to explain. She uses

her prose as a scalpel to dissect the urban existence of the 1990s. Even mundane events — laughing, crying, or eating yoghurt — are made to seem surreal. Kennedy's characteristically astute use of metaphor is witty and incisive, capturing the texture of a tragicomic world. She traces that line where rationality teeters over into madness, laughter into cruelty. Her dark love story is always threatening to spin out of control into an abyss of perversion and violence.

But like the real Cyrano de Bergerac's novels, *So I Am Glad* is more than a type of science fiction. It is, rather, a political satire, pointing out the bleakness of a modern world where human feelings no longer count, where men can be satisfied by symbolic systems and exist in isolation from others. In this world, buying a poppy seems almost as good as preventing a soldier's death, while "politicians are able to sit by themselves and still make other people hurt".

YET THE satire has a redemptive message. As the episodic narrative rambles on, echoes of despair gradually fade. Jennifer and Savinien are drawn together. Feelings encroach on her clinical detachment, her words become weighted with meaning. Kennedy rehabilitates simple emotions in a fragmented and faithless world. Though disorientating, *So I Am Glad* is curiously inspiring to read.

Rachel Campbell-Johnston is on the staff of *The Times*.

**Rachel Campbell-Johnston**

**SO I AM GLAD**  
By A. L. Kennedy  
Jonathan Cape, £9.99  
paperback original

## A ticket for the peepshow

Clive Fisher

**EXQUISITE CORPSE**  
By Robert Irwin  
Dedalus, £14.99

"SURREALISM was and is a science dedicated to the revelation of the Marvellous in everyday reality," reflects Caspar, the painter turned narrator of this trim entertainment — a novel about disappointed love disguised as a memoir of bohemian London in the Thirties and Forties. Caspar's narrative in theory revolves around his membership of the Serapion Brotherhood (a British caucus of Surrealism), but in practice is devoted to his obsession with Caroline, the well-scrubbed suburban secretary he loves, loses and obsessively pursues.

At pubs or parties, Caspar and Caroline encounter various French Surrealists, including André Breton and Paul Eluard, and almost everyone in London now thought to merit a biography: the Sitwells, Orwell, Connolly, Herbert Read, Lee Miller, Kenneth Clark, Roland Penrose, Aleister Crowley, Henry Moore. At times one is reminded of one of those history paintings in

which all the architects of a great congress or victory are crowded into tableaux, with a key below to identify them. Irwin's celebrities are generally silent; when they do speak they inevitably disappoint. There are our escort at the first Surrealist exhibition in 1936, the Festival of Britain, and even the Nazi exhibition of "Degenerate Art" in Munich — although here Irwin's writing falls short of his research and he turns his egocentric narrator into a didactic moralist. But he sustains his tone and atmosphere convincingly, and *Exquisite Corpse* often evokes the beery camaraderie of the Soho of Julian Maclaren-Ross.

Its inaccuracies place it beyond historical fiction. It is not mere nostalgia: Irwin never knew the years he describes. Nor is it a comedy about bohemian pariahs and suburban conformists: comedy requires characterisation and even Caspar is more symbol than personality. *Exquisite Corpse* is a conceit, playful yet discreetly ambitious, which leaves its characters' assumptions, while reminding us of a time when intellectuals thought they could avert wars and artists manned the barricades in the defence of narcissism.

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Melissa Bunn: acute intelligence

remote father. Rachel is generally to be found heaving piles of laundry, or dispensing sandwiches with a faint air of martyrdom. Even allowing for authorial licence, life in the Bunn household doesn't sound as though it was much fun.

There is a sense of portentousness here which is never quite fulfilled by events. Karen is not some malevolent incubus, as is hinted, but merely a lonely, ambitious girl with a need for reinvention. She is persuaded, by a hard-line Labour Party member, to act as an informer on Tom. Though haunted by guilt thereafter, she actually fails to rake up any dirt, nor is she responsible for Tom's "troubles", which sabotage his dream of power and leave his family "to get on with an ordinary life that had once promised to be extraordinary". The "troubles" themselves are sadly pedestrian. But it is precisely this mundanity which lies at the heart of the novel.

Just as there are no grand acts of nobility or wickedness, the writing never soars. Though always readable, it remains fettered by a studied carefulness, a restraint bordering on constraint, which leaves you wishing Bunn would allow herself a little more spontaneity. It is this, coupled with her cheerless message of fallibility and disappointment, rather than the dreary political meetings in church halls, or the unattractive collection of characters, which ultimately makes *Public Lives* an admirable but dispiriting novel.



Peter Ackroyd on a great novelist who worried so much about his reputation that he ceased writing, but whose fiction will survive

## Vicissitudes of an Anglo-Saxon wit

ANGUS WILSON  
A Biography  
By Margaret Drabble  
Secker & Warburg, £20

The infant Angus Johnstone-Wilson, dressed as Mary Queen of Scots, was often led to the block by his two older brothers in one of their more sensational theatrical games; they too became homosexual and for a while worked as male prostitutes in London. His father was something of a "stage-door Johnny" haunting the music halls of the late 19th century, and seems to have been equally shadowy and furtive in his financial dealings; his mother was rather more respectable, and made sure that everyone knew it. They were a cast of amateur actors, in other words, who moved from one set of rented rooms to the next in the purlieus of Kensington or Eastbourne.

This is a childhood to rival that of Charles Dickens in its literary possibilities, and it can confidently be said that Angus Wilson lived up to his early promise. He was described as "a small boy with huge blue eyes and yellow curly hair who talked all the time with great excitement at the top of his voice". The hair may, sadly, have changed colour, but nothing else altered for the next 70 years. In this substantial and interesting biography, Margaret Drabble devotes some 40 pages to her subject's earliest years: one could have read another 500 without being bored.

At Westminster he was known as "the boy with the hair", a cross between David Copperfield and Orphan Annie who told endless stories to his contemporaries and who patrolled the streets of London with the fascinated preoccupation of one who knows that he is exploring his birthright. It was what Drabble calls "the underworld of London" but, for Wilson, it was fast becoming the landscape of his imagination. This was his

home. Like other London novelists he was to write vast and sprawling works in which magic and naturalism, fantasy and realism, are strangely blended: from Defoe to Dickens, from Blake to Moorcock, it is the true magic realism of the city and one which long precedes more fashionable works from South America.

He thought of becoming an actor, after a rather inconsequential time at Oxford, but instead he was employed as a "temporary assistant cataloguer" in the Reading Room of the British Museum. He was to remain there, in various capacities, for the next 18 years. George Gissing once considered the great library as "the valley of the shadow of books" but Wilson, a somewhat more histrionic figure, compared it to Bedlam and Mrs Jarley's waxworks exhibition. He is remembered still in his position at the central desk, looking and sounding like some macabre in a very small aviary. There was in fact always a strain of wildness in him, emerging in hysterical comedy or in strident anger. All his life he suffered from what Drabble calls a "precarious mental state", which is perhaps simply the state of genius.

It does not suggest a cast of mind entirely suitable for a librarian, however, but in a more sober



Angus Wilson: his vanity was part of his vulnerability and led him to take himself too seriously

moment he did manage to write an essay entitled *The British Museum in English Fiction*. There is in fact also a great deal of English fiction in the British Museum, and eventually Wilson himself took his place in the procession of novelists who have sat beneath the vast dome. He began seriously to write at the age of 34, which is a very good time to begin; he completed an excellent short story, *Raspberry*

Jan, and at a stroke Angus Johnstone-Wilson became plain Angus Wilson.

There followed *The Wrong Set*, *Such Darling Dodos*, *Hemlock and After*, and *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes* — four volumes which, over a period of seven years in the 1950s, ensured that he became one of the most successful and fashionable novelists of that decade. He even became a celebrity, and

inevitably, left the British Museum. Eventually he was enrolled as a senior lecturer at the University of East Anglia.

But then something began to happen. He lacked self-confidence, and as a result he took himself too seriously. He pontificated about the novel, as well as other subjects, and started writing long letters about his own work. At the same time, of course, he also started to

worry unnecessarily about his reputation. He developed various mild forms of literary paranoia, and even began to read the newspaper reviewers. Margaret Drabble recounts a wonderful scene when he stormed out of a PEN dinner because he had not been seated at a prominent table. Yet his vanity (if such it was) was always part of a larger vulnerability and strangeness.

The novels may have suffered as a result. He seems to have thought of himself as George Eliot rather than Thomas Love Peacock, and began to introduce "great themes" with which to decorate his novels. He was a highly sophisticated, witty and instinctive writer but, like most other novelists, he did not have the kind of grand intelligence which would accommodate the development of ideas as well as characters or plots. His sojourn at the University of East Anglia could not have helped — fashionable theorising, and a certain form of mid-Atlantic criticism, only served to confuse and in certain respects to unnerve him.

So a familiar pattern emerges. He became a public figure, and so found a perfect excuse for not writing. Drabble naturally feels obliged to omit nothing which might conceivably be of biographical interest, so she details the endless round of conferences and lecture-tours upon which Wilson embarked in his middle years; but it has to be said that it is almost as exhausting for the reader as it must have been for the participants. Yet these details are instructive in one respect — they offer a

frightening picture of a writer not writing, and frittering away his time on endless good causes. In the process Wilson seems out of focus because he himself was unresolved and unsettled. His position in English letters may already have been secure but, to him at least, it was not at all clear what it was.

His last years were very difficult. He believed himself to have gone quite out of fashion, although his study of Dickens should have reminded him that even the greatest writers must ride the roller-coaster of reputation in their own lifetimes. He was still very charming — sweet is perhaps the appropriate word — but he was ever more susceptible to paranoia and to occasional ferocious outbursts of rage. He often felt, as he told one friend, "isolated and alarmed". He became the prey to some form of dementia, and spent his last months in a Norfolk nursing home. But he was never really isolated at all — the true hero of this book is his companion, Tony Garrett, who nursed and protected him until the end of his life.

There is a book to be written on the partners of writers, those men or women who comfort and support the most difficult people while remaining firmly in the background. It would be true to say, from Drabble's account, that Wilson would not have been able to produce his work without the presence of Garrett beside him: he provided him with both security and love, without which the famous public novelist could not have survived. One thing has also become clear as a result of this voluminous and illuminating book — we are all in Garrett's debt, since Wilson's fiction truly will survive.

## How Boswell discovered he was a Boswell

James Boswell was something of a puzzle to his contemporaries, and he has remained so ever since. It is hard to imagine a man — a great writer, at that — more riven by his own conflicting qualities. He had a charm and good humour that could win him friends everywhere, but he was capable of disgusting grossness too. He could be slothful and yet had periods of great industry. His love of dissipation was counter-balanced by his thirst for fame. He was full of contradictions, and there is no difficulty in accounting for the numerous books which try to explain him.

This latest is modest in aim: it offers a pleasant stroll over familiar ground rather than discoveries. But Roger Hutchinson is good company and one is quickly won over by his shrewd commentary and his intelligent, sympathetic approach to his subject.

Inevitably his main source is Boswell himself, through the *Boswell Journals*; it may well be that he will send some readers in search of those astonishing works of self-portrayal. Alas, it is a deplorable fact that they are now almost all out of print and in some cases very rare. A competent paraphrase such as this is not to be disregarded.

Hutchinson's title, *All the Sweets of Being*, is taken from Boswell's remark about the fits of melancholy which afflicted him. Even in the heat of youth, he complained, he at times felt like "one who has exhausted all the sweets of being". At other times he savoured those sweets with conspicuous enjoyment. This see-saw of emotions was an essential part of his nature. It

was reflected, for example, in the constant battle within him between his proud Scottishness and his passionate attachment to the sophisticated life of London. Hutchinson illuminates this inner struggle by sketching a dismal picture of Edinburgh in the early years of the 18th century.

It was a stinking, dirty, unhealthy place and its citizens formed a narrow and restrictive society. After the Act of Union, but before the im-

J.W.M. Thompson

ALL THE SWEETS OF BEING

A Life of James Boswell  
By Roger Hutchinson  
Mainstream, £17.50

JAMES BOSWELL'S LIFE OF JOHNSON  
An Edition of the Original Manuscript Volume I (1709-1765)

Edited by Marshall Wainwright  
Edinburgh University Press, £75

provements effected later in the century, Edinburgh was "a crumbling, gangrenous shell". One supposes that any sensible man, let alone a restless spirit such as Boswell, would gladly have quitted it for the London of Johnson and Garrick and Reynolds and Wilkes.

Boswell also longed to make himself a "celebrated man" and this meant becoming a celebrity in London, that "field of genius", as he once called it. There were years of frustration when notoriety rather than fame seemed to be his fate. Then, late in life, came his two great books, his *Tour to*

the Hebrides and his *Life of Samuel Johnson*. People wondered at the transformation of the drinker, womaniser and failed lawyer into a serious and admired literary figure; it was not the least of the puzzles about him.

But in reality (Hutchinson goes into this perceptively) Boswell had by then served a long apprenticeship to literature. He was a compulsive natural writer and he had already written not only those remarkable journals but also many essays, much journalism (often anonymous) and a vast correspondence. In all of this he developed his distinctive and original style, as engaging today as it was 200 years ago. When the journals were eventually published, in our own times, they showed that over the years James Boswell had become a great writer without anyone (not even Boswell) noticing it.

What has also become clear is the extreme care with which he wrote. The rakish chatterbox, always in danger of going over the top on social occasions, became a scrupulously careful and discriminating craftsman when he seized his pen, repeatedly refining and adjusting in search of a precise shade of meaning. The first volume of a projected four-volume edition of the manuscript of the *Life* (part of the Yale series of research editions of Boswell's papers) is an astonishing piece of work. Not only because of its rare scholarship, but because of the view it gives, in microscopic detail, of Boswell at work.

The original manuscript, which marvellously survives to this day, consists of more than a thousand pages of Boswell's handwriting, together



Johnson, Boswell and his wife Margaret, who remarked: "I have seen many a bear led by a man; but I never before saw a man led by a bear."

with a similar number containing additional matter. He crossed bits out, introduced new thoughts, toned down some expressions and heightened others. One feels a pang of sympathy for the printer faced with these congested pages. All these variations are recorded, at who knows what cost in scholarly toil, in this handsome volume. The evolution of the book is laid bare.

This is a work only for the specialist, of course, but any reader of Boswell will be interested in the light such striving for perfection casts

upon the character of the man.

Most of his alterations were simply improvements in language, but others indicate second thoughts, as when the description of Mrs Thrale is seen to be modulated from "short, round and smug" to "short, plump and brisk".

We also see how much minor polishing Boswell gave to the utterances of Johnson himself. After his first draft, he frequently improved the words he had put into the Doctor's mouth. That is not to be complained of in so inspired and, as we now know, so tireless a biographer.

## Quickening the dead

Philip Howard

THE LATIN AND GREEK POEMS OF SAMUEL JOHNSON  
Text, Translation and Commentary  
By Barry Baldwin  
Duckworth, £55

more than 200 poems in Latin and a few in Greek and once vigorously combated somebody who found fault with writing verses in a dead language, and laughed at Oxford for publishing collections of them.

Johnson insisted that Latin was the only appropriate language for formal letters of resignation. This would cause grief to today's departing ministers, some of whom find English hard enough, though there are scholars they could hire (there always have been) to turn the most salacious matter into the elegant obscurity of a learned tongue. Johnson also said that Latin was the only language for epitaphs and for medical topics.

This definitive edition of all Johnson's Latin and Greek verses (as well as reconstructions of the lost ones) by the Professor of Classics at Calgary is a labour of love as well as a feat of scholarship. The topics Johnson addressed ranged from a couplet in praise of a goat that had circumnavigated the globe

with Sir Joseph Banks to a satire on an early radical feminist and a squib about the muddy quality of ale at Pembroke College, Oxford. He whittled away his sleepless nights during his last winter on earth by turning epigrams from the *Greek Anthology* into Latin. Two lines of Johnsonian Latin can be followed in the text by ten pages of punctilious commentary. Specimen: "There are over 70 cases of *peccare* in the fifth foot of a hexameter in Virgil, often with a concomitant verb of high emotion."

To modern curriculum managers who ask with a sigh, "What's it all for?", the answer is that anything that illuminates that Latin lover Samuel is interesting. All such scholarship on neglected fields is worth the midnight oil, for readers too. And some of the verses are high wit as well as moving.

An example is Johnson's translation of Joachim du Bellay's Latin couplet translating a Greek epiphon on a dog called Pompey:

*Lairatu fures accipi, minus amantes*

*Sic placui domino, sic placui dominæ*

"I barked at thieves, kept quiet for lovers, and so pleased both my master and my mistress." Such things go better in the economy of Latin. The pity is that so few can understand their wit and beauty.

TO WRITE simply (as Somerset Maugham once said) is as difficult as to be good. Janet Lewis writes simply. Born in 1899, still living in rural seclusion in California as she has for most of her life, she would be revered in a better world.

Her new collection, *The Dear Past and other poems, 1919-1994* (R.L. Barth, 3122 Royal Windsor Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017, USA, \$15), has scarcely a line in it which calls attention to itself, yet it seems to me to contain work that will go on being enjoyed as long as there are readers left to delight in the real thing. The widow of Ivor Winters, a critic whose name came to stand for a severe if bracing classicism, she has perhaps been overshadowed by his reputation. Her one famous book is the short novel *The Wife of Martin Guerre* (1941), now acknowledged to be a minor masterpiece.

We live at the tag end of a century of strenuous poetical

## A condition of simplicity

strivers, where ambition has often been mistaken for seriousness. Because Janet Lewis is quiet, hers is an easy voice to miss. Yet once heard, it is not an easy voice to forget. Her subjects are love and death and other matters of perennial importance, all treated with a singular wit.

Both in verse and prose she is concerned to assure us (as she wrote in the foreword to *Martin Guerre*) that over the centuries "the capacities of the human soul for suffering and for joy remain very much the same". Addressing Emily Dickinson, she praises that kindred spirit for her attention to the *long particular*. She has attended similarly herself and, while she doesn't have Dickinson's power, I think she can be mentioned in the same breath without absurdity. Certainly, like Dickinson, Janet Lewis

POETRY

tells the truth but gives it a slant. The result is poems that are unmistakably part of the tradition, yet at the same time add a new note to it.

Anne Ridler, whose *Collected Poems* (Carcanet, £25) have just appeared, also writes simply. She is another self-possessed traditionalist. Love of her husband, love of her children, love of friends, love of God — these are her subjects. There is a persistent thread of erotic mysticism in her work, and I think at some point Charles Williams must have exerted a powerful spell. She has little gift for metaphor, which is a handicap, but the images she does manage to turn up have a warm translucency — they fit the sense, and what she means shines

through. Her most ambitious and characteristic single poem is probably *A Matter of Life and Death*, a meditation on her son's development from embryo to manhood. Here are small successes, minor melodies, but the sweetest of them have a simplicity achieved without forfeit of honesty, and only those who know nothing of the craft will suppose them easily won.

Michèle Roberts and Sara Berkeley might be said to be still learning how to write simply, but both of them seem confused in interesting ways. The work in Roberts's *All the Selves I Was* (Virago, £8.99 pbk) returns again and again to images of flesh and fire, giving the sense of a passionate intelligence trying to understand experience intuitively. There is a confidence here which can be admired

even when it leads into such a proliferation of metaphor that meanings become elusive.

I first came across the work of Sara Berkeley when I was helping to judge a short story competition and, still a schoolgirl, she submitted a story that suggested she was a born poet. *Facts About Water* (Bloodaxe, £6.95 pbk) collects the pick of her first book of poems, published when she was just 19, as well as subsequent work. There is still something inchoate about her imagination, and something that seems improvised about her forms, with a result that often she writes poetry rather than poems, but lines like *I am asking green to heal me / or in some gesture / mutely to acknowledge me* may give some idea of her quality. I have no doubt that she possesses the innate poetic gift without which no amount of simplicity makes for goodness in verse.

ROBERT NYE

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## UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

FOCUS



Patrick Dowling: "The better-known universities are adept at singing their own praises; we need to make the staff here realise just how good they are"

## Technically at the top

Finishing fifteenth in a league table might seem unimpressive, but when there are 52 teams in the league and you are top of your class the achievement becomes more remarkable. Surrey University can be proud, therefore, of gaining fifteenth place in *The Times Good University Guide* published last Friday, a position which makes it the highest-rated technological institution, above many long-established universities.

Its excellent graduate employment rate, high level of postgraduates and plentiful student accommodation all contributed to the university's highest-ever ranking. It can, however, make several other claims which might surprise first-year sixth-formers now considering where to apply for a place in higher education.

Surrey's links with industry, schools and colleges are so strong that 20,000 people are on courses, in addition to the 7,000 full-time students. The university awards 30,000 degrees every year, making it the third largest validating institution in Britain after the Open University and the University of Wales.

## Tony Dawe introduces the university that has come a long way from its Battersea origins

Its determination, in the face of government cutbacks, to seek alternative funding has been so successful that 60 per cent of its finances come from its own enterprises, including research grants, contracts with industry and profits from wholly-owned subsidiary companies, including the Surrey Research Park, one of only two in the UK owned and managed by a university.

Further funds from the European Commission and local authorities will make the university less and less dependent on handouts from the Education Department and better placed to face what Patrick Dowling, its new Vice-Chancellor, terms "more slings and arrows in the future". Just before the latest league table was published, Professor Dowling said that his aim was to get the university into the top dozen. "We have the people and the will to do it," he says. By now, he is setting his sights higher.

Created in 1966 out of the former Battersea Polytechnic

Institute, and based at Guildford only 30 miles from London and its famous colleges, Surrey played a Cinderella role for years but now has "a very exciting future" according to Professor Dowling. "It has the ethos of an older university with its strong commitment to teaching and research, but the advantages of the new with its entrepreneurial spirit and ability to position itself for the future," he said.

Professor Dowling left his post as head of civil engineering at Imperial College, London, to take over as Surrey's Vice-Chancellor last October and "feels at home with the university's strong engineering faculty".

He points out, however, the variety of courses available: "Most people still think of this as a university of science and engineering, but the department of humanities is better than many. It has inherited the vocational drive of the science and technology departments which we assumed from the technology college."

"We are strong in linguistics and international studies; our sociology department is one of the best in the country and we have a distinguished department of psychology which has been working closely with the police service on the motivation of serial killers."

"The performing arts department might be small but is of a high standard, and its work gives the local community an insight into the quality of the university."

The *Good University Guide* reports that Surrey's priorities are work experience and language competence. All students are encouraged to enrol for a course at the new European language centre and new engineering degrees have a language component. They also include leadership training, which takes students out and about around the county to face a variety of

challenges and a course in the Brecon Beacons, complete with rock faces to climb and tiny caves to penetrate.

Most degrees last four years, with one or two half-years in work placements, often abroad. With more than 1,000 workstations, the use of computers is also common to all Surrey's courses.

Its hilltop site, within easy reach of Guildford town centre and fast links to London, make it attractive to students but also accessible to the community, with whom it wants to maintain a special relationship. "One of the first things I wanted to do when I came here was to improve communications both within the university and between the university and the community," Professor Dowling said. "I am keen to build a very solid support base locally and regionally to make people aware of what we are doing and to get them on the campus."

His staff are impressed at the way he has visited every department, not just to shake hands with students and lecturers but to listen to what they have to say and inspire them with his own enthusiasm. He is fond of telling people: "The better-known universities are adept at singing their praises; we need to make the staff realise just how good they are."

With 20,000 continuing education students at the university, the Vice-Chancellor is committed to working closely with schools and colleges in the county. "Further education colleges provide foundation courses for us, and it is important to discover how we can add value to one another," he said. "We might be a research-rich university trying to pursue excellence in teaching and research, but we recognise the need to encourage variety."

## Leaders learn the ropes

STUDENTS who join an engineering course at Surrey University may eventually find themselves dangling on the end of an abseil rope or squeezing through a tiny cave, Tony Dawe writes. For all 1,300 engineering undergraduates undertake an action centre leadership course and some go on to complete more exacting training in the Welsh mountains.

The leadership courses, like the opportunities for all students to learn computing skills and a foreign language, are part of Surrey's commitment to produce well-rounded graduates capable of stepping straight into demanding jobs. "Kids come out of university with a technical background but put them in a team and they are lost. That is why we are running the courses," says Ron Schulz, senior lecturer in the chemical and process engineering department, which organises the training.

"We cannot teach everyone to be a good leader but it is important they learn how to work together instead of pursuing individual goals, which is what a lot of learning is about. We would like to see all undergraduates undertake leadership training."

## One-stop shop for a kit spacecraft

Poorer countries can now buy a satellite off the shelf, says Rodney Hobson

It belongs to Chile and it will be launched on July 20 by a Ukrainian rocket from a site in Russia, but the satellite is indisputably British in make and design. It is the handiwork of Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), one of the companies owned by the University of Surrey.

SSTL was the brainchild of Professor Martin Sweeting, of the electrical engineering department. He recognised that while countries such as the United States were prepared to spend vast sums of money on space operations, other countries could buy satellites only if the cost could be brought down.

His notion was to accept a degree of risk by using technology that was believed to be reliable but had not been tried and tested in space research over a number of years. A company was set up to generate funds for more research. Now SSTL has a staff of 35 and annual turnover of £5.2 million.

Ed Milton, SSTL general manager and a graduate of the electrical engineering department at Guildford, says: "There will always be a market for the most expensive technology, such as for national security or telecommunications, where being without cover for a couple of days is disastrous."

"These systems are also expensive to run because a team of technicians has to monitor the satellites. Our spacecraft have autonomy. They tell us exactly where they are and they check in each time they pass over Guildford. We also keep the cost down by hitching a ride on someone else's launch. When the main satellite is released we detach from it."

SSTL developed a small satellite costing £1 million rather than hundreds of millions of pounds. The satellites it sends up orbit the Earth rather than stay in one fixed position. The whole planet is

from nothing to being established in two years in any industry. Getting technical know-how is very important to developing countries."

Surrey University offers a one-stop space shop, designing, manufacturing and testing spacecraft, training the customer's technicians and operating the satellite. This also helps to hold down costs.

The Chilean spacecraft to be sent up in July weighs 50kg and is a metre long with a six-metre aerial. It will take photographs of the Earth and map the Antarctic ozone layer.

The autonomous satellite processes the photographs it takes and decides whether they are of good quality. If it is not satisfied, it takes more photographs and sends back the best ones.

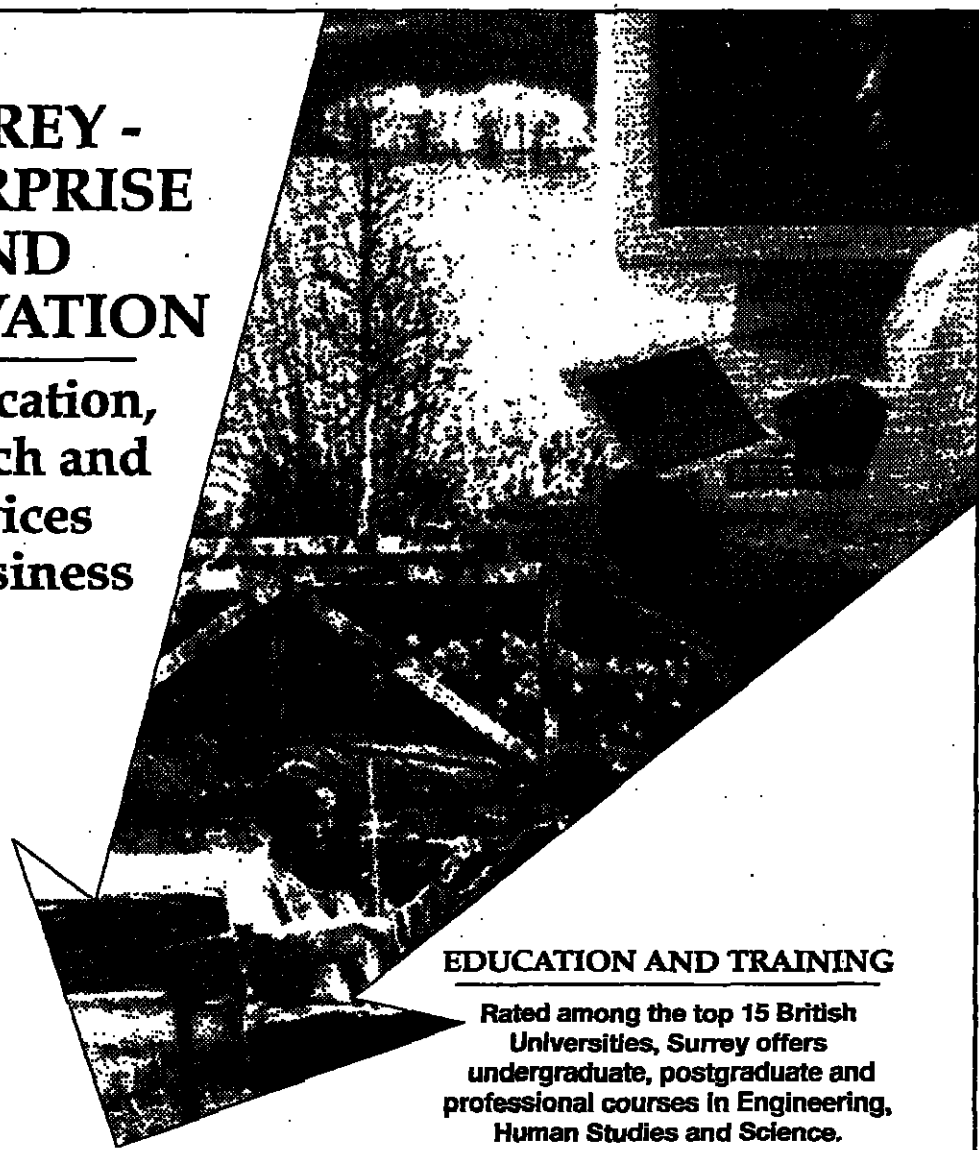
Another use for an SSTL satellite has been to help doctors in Africa to gain access to information from a medical research charity in the United States. Mr Milton says: "If a doctor sees symptoms he does not recognise or needs advice he can send a request to a hospital in the US and have a large medical document relayed back to him the same day."



Surrey Satellite Technology turns over £5 million annually

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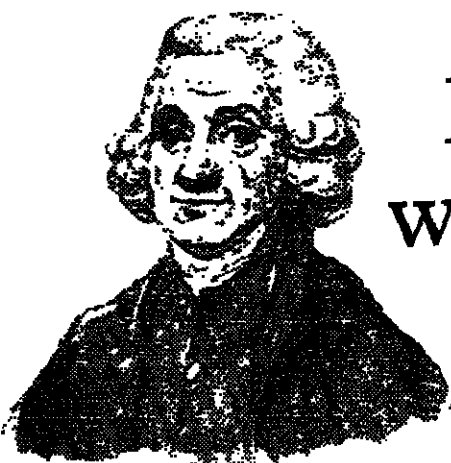
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# Switch on to a tutorial

Tony Dawe explains why students are finding computer teaching more beneficial than lecturing

Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I'll remember. Involve me, I'll understand. This is the thinking behind a new approach to teaching undergraduates pioneered at Surrey University, which is replacing some lectures with computer programs.

The centre for engineering educational technology believes that computer-based courses which encourage self-paced, self-guidance and self-discovery are more beneficial for students than sitting for hours on end in crowded lecture halls.

The centre is open day and night for students to come in and work through tutorials at their own pace, and has proved both highly popular and effective. The new approach also allows staff more time to pursue research and new projects.

Tony Cartwright, the centre's director, explained that Surrey started looking at alternative teaching methods five years ago, after the National Engineering Council had voiced concern about the quality of engineering teaching.

"The university was expanding at the time and we began to consider how to attract more students and how to cope with the broader intake that would entail," he said.

"The changing pattern led to more mature students taking courses and to others taking part-time or retraining courses. Lecturers assume that students have the same backgrounds, the same skills, but that increasingly is not the case.

"With that background, we began to experiment with computer-based learning and to discover for what purposes it was best suited.

"We discovered that computer simulation would allow students to investigate how things happened and we developed courses with founda-

tion programs on computer for first-year students."

The new approach meant a radical revision of teaching methods and a shift from the lecturer being the focal point of learning to playing a support role. Students found that the time they spent with staff was cut by 23 per cent, while staff found their time with students was cut by half, releasing them for what Dr Cartwright termed "more meaningful activities, like research which is a mainstream activity of the university".

Staff also felt that they were achieving more because instead of lecturing 100 students in one hall at the same time, they were able to sit down with a few at a time to see how they

**'The capability of the computer as a tool in the education process is being realised'**

were getting on with the computer course.

Two of Surrey's eight core technical subjects are now taught by this method — electronics and solid body mechanics, which studies the stresses and strains in different materials. I sat down alongside Dr Cartwright to learn about solid-body mechanics and, with help from him and the computer, found it possible to grasp a subject I barely knew existed.

After a scene-setting lecture and a lively introduction to the subject involving collapsing oil-rig legs and crashing aircraft, students sit down in pairs at the computer to work through a number of cards.

Graphics at the top of the screen simulate what will hap-

pen if they apply different loads at different points to different materials, while course notes appear at the bottom of the screen. Any technical words which might be difficult to understand can be checked in a glossary available on screen.

As students progress, they can choose whether to move straight on to further problems or to read through briefing notes first. They are brought together for regular timetable periods with their tutor to discuss progress and common problems, but otherwise continue to work on their own.

The centre is keen to encourage the use of computers in teaching other subjects, including languages. It already supports a full multimedia course in energy and environment management, funded by Esso and run jointly with the Farnham Institute of Technology, and is leading a teaching and learning innovation group involving seven universities, with each one developing the use of computers in a different subject.

Surrey University has won many endorsements from leading engineers and industrialists who have visited the centre. Brian Hildrew, past president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, said: "At the centre, the true capability of the computer as a tool in the education process is being realised."

"The effectiveness of the developed procedures, particularly in the context of science and technology, is impressive. The better utilisation of staff time and the enthusiastic and stimulated involvement of the student in the learning process clearly demonstrate a major breakthrough to a most effective and economic way of educating the future workforce of our country."



The excellence of the music department has been acknowledged by the Higher Education Funding Council, placing it among the top in its field

REGARDED chiefly as a science and technology university, Surrey has just won an award in a different field. Its small music department, with 136 students and seven staff, has been given an "excellence" rating by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which places it among the top music departments in English universities.

Tony Dawe writes. Surrey received special commendation for the high standards achieved by stu-

## Award for music makers

dents and lecturers were praised for their "well-planned, professionally presented classes". The award provides further ammunition for Patrick Dowling, the new Vice-Chancellor, in his bid to make Surrey well-known for its arts as well as its science and engineering faculties. Surrey has an international reputation in music research.

from ground-breaking studies on how expert performers interpret great music to space-age techniques for storing works. The department runs two courses, one on the theory and practice of music and the other entitled "Music and Sound Recording (Tommeister)", the only one of its kind in the country.

The music award came

after a four-day assessment by the council. They sat in on lectures, spoke to students, attended concert rehearsals, checked management structures and interviewed staff.

Tom Messenger, head of the department, found the experience well worthwhile, saying: "We believe we had a very good reputation before the assessment; it is pleasing

to know this is now official." Students on the sound recording course operate a purpose-built studio and spend a year of their studies working in Britain or abroad in audio-electronics companies, post-production houses or in recording studios.

The music department has a good employment record with students going on to jobs in orchestras, composing, music journalism or setting up sound recording businesses.

## Students on the rubbish heap

Engineers want to rummage through your dustbin

Educating engineers with an interest in human behaviour and concern for the environment might seem beyond the wildest dreams of campaigners at Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. Yet it is actually happening at Surrey University in the centre for environmental strategy.

Founded less than three years ago, it has become a

hotbed of research into the best use of resources, clean technology and the advantages or otherwise of recycling materials, where engineering graduates study such alien subjects as sociology and psychology.

One of the main threads in the centre's work is "life-cycle thinking", which means assessing the full environmental implications "from the cradle to the grave" of human activities. Industrial processes, products and services, to take into account the materials used, energy required and waste created.

Further themes include how personal behaviour, lifestyle and views can affect the environment, and the promotion of clean technologies which provide benefits by using fewer resources and causing less environmental impact.

If all that sounds earnest, it can, in practice, mean delving

in undergraduates' rubbish and carrying out vox pops in Guildford High Street, as some postgraduates at the centre have discovered.

The unusual assignments are part of a revolutionary course started in 1993 to create doctors of engineering in environmental technology. The four-year postgraduate course has been designed to develop a new breed of top manager demanded by today's manufacturing industry and sets out to provide the expertise required to solve serious engineering problems and define future strategies. It is open to graduates from any branch of engineering but they must be sponsored by industry.

Andy Vaughan, aged 34, one of the first postgraduates on the course, says: "It is recognised in industry that a traditional engineering PhD is no longer enough to meet requirements and people with

wider experience are needed."

With a degree in physical geography from Kingston University, he has won sponsorship from Southern Water to study developments in the catchment area of the River Test in Hampshire. Using satellite pictures and computer systems, he is assessing the impact of farming procedures, including the use of pesticides on water quality.

Like all environmental technology courses, his work includes studies in sociology which have taken him out with a notebook in Guildford town centre to interview people to assess how the public perceives different environmental risks.

Andrew Davey, 25, is the postgraduate who has been given the task of searching students' rubbish. He is developing an environmental policy for the university, which includes a strategy for waste management and the recycling of materials as well as

assessing the public's perception of them.

He will be interviewing undergraduates and comparing their intentions to use glass and paper banks on the campus with the bottles, cans and waste paper in their rubbish.

He is also studying energy resources at the university, including whether it would be economic to burn the vast amount of waste paper created across the campus for fuel and to compensate for the loss of paper by growing trees for pulp in short-plantation coppices on green-belt land owned by the university.

These are themes close to the heart of Roland Clift, founder of the Surrey centre. A chemical engineer who has become an expert in clean technology, his own studies suggest that burning used paper as a fuel rather than recycling it saves energy and chemicals.

Tackling issues in an engineering context is essential to the centre's work.

TONY DAWE



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"The University provides us with resources — expertise and equipment — and we have joint research programmes. The Park is very convenient for London with its Eurostar service to Paris, and is close to Heathrow and Gatwick airports. It is situated in an area with many hi-tech industries and is also a very pleasant region where schooling and housing are good.

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# Greenfield appeal to Silicon Valley

The business people of California are now being briefed on the joys of Surrey. Not, of course, on its weather or the artificial beach at Thorpe Park, but on the importance of its research park and skills available at its university.

The attempt to convince Californians of the advantages of Surrey as a European base is the latest initiative of Surrey First, a private company set up by the county council and Surrey Training and Enterprise Council (Tec) to attract new investment.

The company has opened offices in the United States in Atlanta, Georgia, San Antonio, Texas, Kansas City, and in Sunnyvale, close to Silicon Valley, to bring computing and electronic companies to the county.

Jim Laird, Surrey First's chief executive, says: "Our telemarketing teams, who are in action every day, will be able to link with staff in the new offices to ensure they provide personal presentations or arrange visits to the county for hot prospects."

"We can offer excellent locations with good access to London and continental Europe, but the jewel in the crown is the Surrey Research Park, where small international companies are developing high-tech skills."

The organisation has helped Kimberly-Clark to set up in Reigate, and the American company, which makes tissues and a wide range of consumer products, plans to base its European operations in the county. Exicom, an Australian telecommunications company, has also moved in.

Mr Laird is proud of the support his organisation has won from private companies which, among other services, are providing the American offices. Derek Thomas, the county's chief executive, shares his enthusiasm for the private sector's backing for Surrey First.

He recalled that the county council launched its draft economic strategy at a "kickstart conference" at Surrey University and followed it up with a round-table meeting with the business community. "On that occasion, a number of business people said that they would like to promote the creation of an inward investment company," Mr Thomas says.

The county is chasing business in America. Tony Dawe reports

conomic strategy at a "kickstart conference" at Surrey University and followed it up with a round-table meeting with the business community. "On that occasion, a number of business people said that they would like to promote the creation of an inward investment company," Mr Thomas says.

"The idea came from the private sector, a tremendous achievement. It was the first time that I experienced a positive feeling from the business community that we all had a duty to do something about Surrey's economy, which had been hit unexpectedly hard by the recession."

"We were in a dilemma

working closely with industry to ensure that they produce the skills which local businesses require. Teachers and pupils spend time working with companies, which also have an input into schools."

In one example, a technology teacher was seconded to McLaren Cars to design a device to test the steering on the company's grand prix racing cars. In return, McLaren helped to develop a new technology centre at the teacher's school.

In keeping with such co-operation, the "Compact" scheme has been developed to provide an alternative to good A levels as a way of winning a place at Surrey University.

cal drupe for use in operating theatres, and won three orders.

Barbara Salvage, marketing director, says: "We have also joined Tec programmes to advise on financial control, business planning and management change. We have had to contribute financially but the amount has been minimal compared with the access to expertise and the benefits we have obtained."

With an annual turnover of £450,000 and seven full-time staff, the company is typical of most in Surrey, where 90 per cent of businesses employ fewer than 25 people. To help them to obtain inexpensive advice and consultancy services, the county council is seeking Trade Department approval to establish a Business Link organisation.

"Surrey is just the kind of place that would benefit from streamlining the plethora of support and counselling organisations," Mr Thomas says.

Creating a business innovation centre to help entrepreneurs to develop new ideas would be the next step. A network of these centres is being developed across Europe with the help of the European Commission's regional funds, but Surrey will have to finance its own as the county does not have development status.

Jeff Bartley, the county's economic development officer, says: "We want to link up with developing companies with original ideas to help them to evaluate whether the ideas could be successful in the market place and to advise on the skills required for running a business."

"We envisage some technology transfer between Surrey University and local firms and the centre would obviously be best sited in the Research Park. Our vision is that it would require two to three staff working with public funding of £150,000 a year for three years, and then it should be self-financing."



The Surrey Research Park is boosting Surrey's economy

because we wanted to encourage an economic strategy and inward investment and at the same time protect the image of leafy Surrey."

"So Surrey First was created with the intention of attracting investment compatible with the environment and style of the workforce. The calibre of our workers in terms of university qualifications and professional training is a major plus."

A quarter of the county's labour force is educated to university entrance level, a higher percentage even than in London, and Surrey has a greater proportion of undergraduates than any other area in the South East.

The county's schools, colleges and universities are

Richard Wormell, Surrey Tec's managing director, says: "We are working with the university to help students who possess high levels of technical skill, which might be ahead of their academic achievements, to get on to courses. We have already provided a few candidates whom the university has found acceptable."

Among many schemes to help local businesses, the Tec has developed an innovation programme to advise companies on the development of new products. Shield Medical, Parnham-based makers of medical equipment, joined a programme last November to evaluate the development of a range of products and has already launched one, a surgi-

Ten years ago it was a field; now it's a high-tech success story

Wellingtons were the order of the day when the Duke of Kent, Chancellor of the University of Surrey, opened the Surrey Research Park ten years ago. He has visited the park several times since, seeing the 70 acres of farmland transformed into the internationally famous low-density garden environment that he will inspect on August 24 to mark the tenth anniversary.

Greeting him again will be Malcolm Parry, who has run the park from the start. Dr Parry was a lecturer in ergonomics when the then Vice-Chancellor asked him to take a three-month secondment in 1982. Three months became six; six months became an indefinite period.

"There was an electric fence round the field to keep the cows out," he says. "I ruined a suit wading through the clay to be shown the site I was going to get."

The first company to move in was Strathgairn Services International in 1985. It tested oil well mud to help exploration companies to decide where to drill. It has not quite held on for the anniversary celebrations, having moved to a warehouse a few miles away last month.

It was soon joined in the research park by companies large and small. Canon, the electronics group, came to make hi-fi speakers. BOC, the gases company, built an air-separating plant and Kobe Steel an electronic microscope for checking emissions.

Kobe considered alternative sites at Cambridge and Salford universities and at the Milton Keynes headquarters of the Open University before choosing Guildford. Occupying a 12,500 sq ft building, it has brought a new meaning to shift work by linking its research unit to establishments in Japan and the United States to provide a 24 hours a day operation, each picking up the research where the previous time zone leaves off.

Some tenants have grown rapidly. Bullfrog, the computer games inventor, arrived with a five-man team, sharing the facilities that the park offers to very small companies in its technology centre. Bullfrog grew into its own premises and now employs 70 people. Monmouth Pharmaceuticals, an American com-

## Growing up in the park



Clive Phillips of Kobe Steel: part of a global operation

pany, set up as a three-man band to form a bridgehead into Europe. It now occupies 5,000 sq ft.

Enrad's ground-probing radar division was one of the earliest tenants. Researchers reduced the size of the equipment from a caravan to a briefcase. The radar was used to locate human remains at the Gloucester home of Frederick West. The division has been spun off into a separate company now located at Godal-

ing and is a prime example of how the park has fed expertise out into the local community.

A recent arrival is Borax, a subsidiary of RTZ, the mining group, which moved into a specially designed 65,000 sq ft building last August. Borax has brought together its research unit from Chessington and its commercial operations from Victoria, London, to improve efficiency.

The park has remained fully let, even though it allows

smaller tenants to give only a month's notice. The building of the park coincided with an upturn in the economy and it was possible to stop speculative building in 1989.

There are now 66 companies in occupation. About 20 tenants are foreign, coming from America, France, Finland and Japan.

Dr Parry says: "This land supported one person. Now it provides employment for 2,650 and it is still a pleasant environment. Half the vacancies that occur when companies move out are filled by growing companies already on the park. Young companies here have shown staggering growth through hard times."

Dr Parry adds that tenants on the park have little difficulty in recruiting staff, even though Guildford is not a concentrated population area. "More than 70 per cent of the jobs here are for professionals, and there is no shortage of them in Surrey," he says.

Premises are marketed to larger potential occupiers through agents based in London. Dr Parry says: "Smaller companies recognise the benefits we offer and they come to us. We can provide business services to support them until they get going. Being on a science park gives them some status."

Major companies appreciate that this is an exclusive park and that what they are investing in will not be turned into an industrial estate with heavy vehicles driving in and out. We have a commitment to research and development. They have access to the university's intellectual infrastructure and its graduates.

"We are sensitive to the needs of technology-based companies. They find us a good landlord because we invest in property, we do not trade in it."

The park has 22 acres available for development. It has detailed planning permission and building work could start soon for occupancy next year. Dr Parry believes the enlarged area will be full by the end of the century. "The impact that the park has on the local, and perhaps the national, economy will give sufficient momentum for people to recognise its value."

RODNEY HOBSON

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G'DWOOD	101	201
N'CASTLE	102	202
UTTOXETER	103	203
EXETER	104	204
IRISH	105	205
G'WOODS	106	206

concern of individuals, rich or otherwise? Walker, according to his local MP, Jack Straw, has done more for Blackburn in terms of morale, contribution to the local economy, the provision of jobs, etc. than anyone in the town's history. It is a pity that Walker chose to devalue Walker's achievement in such a vitriolic way.

Yours faithfully,  
**JOHN H. HIGGS,**  
4 Canterbury Road,  
Guildford, Surrey.

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**Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.**

هكذا من الأصل



**GOODWOOD**

...



# Yorkshire's chance to curb Lamb's ambition

By SIMON WILDE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, the only county with a top-five finish in the championship in each of the last three years, will know more about their title aspirations this season after their visit to Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, over the next five days. The leaders take on Yorkshire, who have won each of their three matches with a day to spare and lie fourth in the table.

Northamptonshire are playing as purposefully as ever under Allan Lamb, whose response to taking control of all aspects of first-team affairs has been to rediscover his best form with the bat. At the age of 40 and in his seventh and last year as captain, he tops the national batting averages and has arguably played match-winning innings in each of the last three matches.

He has received support from some surprising areas. Curran has started scoring runs again. Capel, after two years spent by injury, has returned with runs and wickets. And Kumble, the Indian leg spinner, has responded impressively to a heavy workload.

Lamb was one of only five batsmen to score hundreds in the previous round of championship games, just one of which survived beyond lunch on the final day, and there will be as much interest today in the quality of pitches as in the cricket, not least at Sheffield, where Derbyshire were dismissed for 73 last September.

Lamb will be anxious to avoid a similar fate, especially after his side were dismissed for 59 last weekend by Benjamin, 34, and Pigott, 36, of Surrey. Although Northamptonshire's prospects will be enhanced by the absence of Gough, who is on England duty, Yorkshire possess an

evergreen seamer of their own in Hartley, the country's leading wicket-taker.

Yorkshire will also be without Moxon, whose broken thumb has not healed, and Warren will continue to deputise for Ripley, the Northamptonshire wicketkeeper, who has a fractured finger.

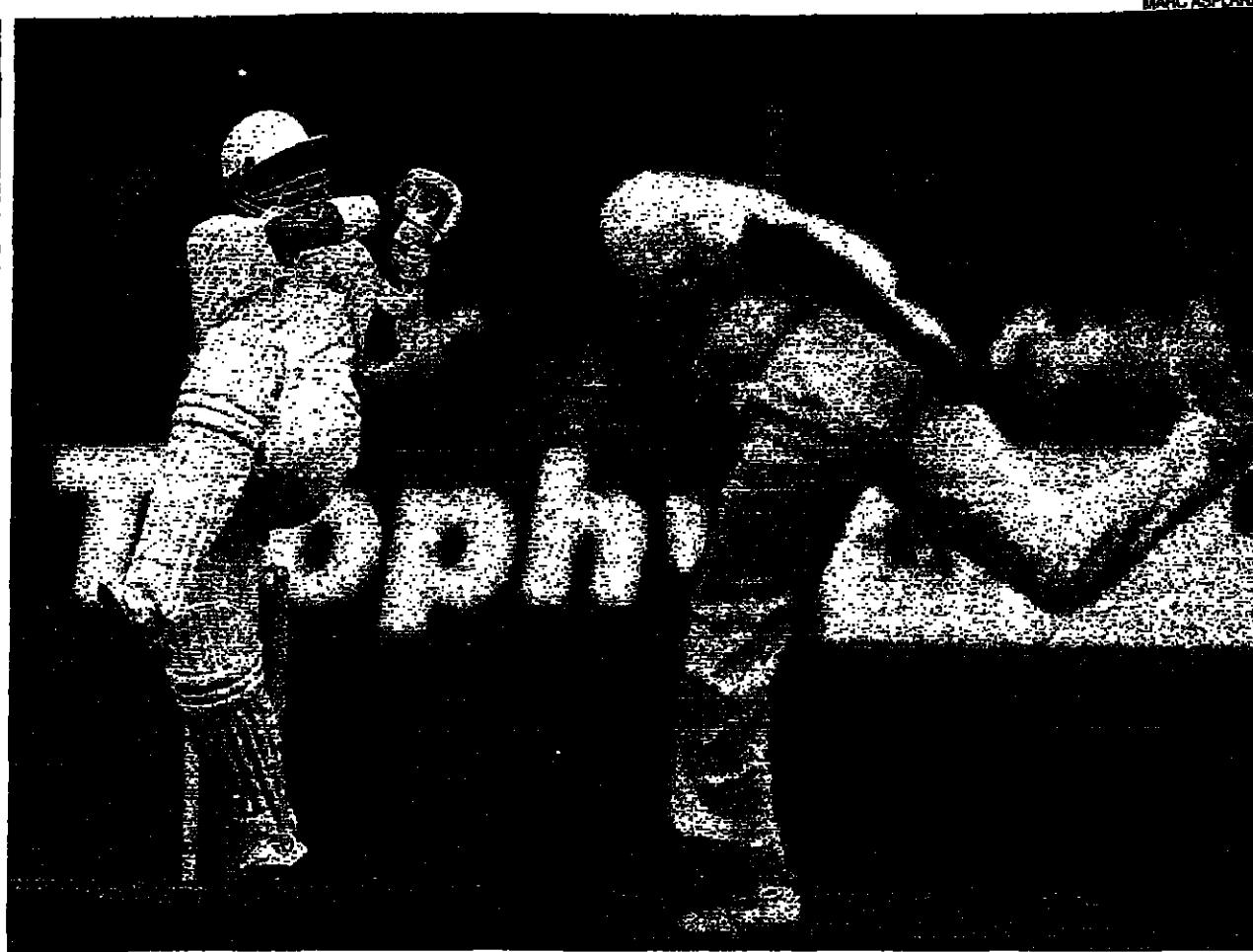
Three counties take cricket to some of their less regular venues. Gloucestershire entertain Worcestershire in the delightful setting of Archdeacon Meadow, Gloucester, and Lancashire play hosts to Nottinghamshire in the first championship match at Aigburth, Liverpool, for two years. Lancashire, who have dropped only one point in three matches, will discover what life is like without their England players.

Hampshire, with three defeats and no batting points to show from their championship season, will be hoping that the pitch at the United Services ground, Portsmouth, is not as dry for Sussex's visit as it was when Gloucestershire played there last July when 33 wickets fell in two days.

In the absence of Wells, Sussex will be led for the first time by Salisbury, who took nine Essex wickets in the previous match. He can call on Jarvis and Lenham, both of whom are now fit.

Warwickshire and Somerset, who meet at Edgbaston, are ravaged by injuries. Warwickshire lack Donald, Munton and Ostler, who may be out for three weeks following a knee operation; Somerset add Turner and Ecclestone to a casualty list headed by Caddick and van Troost.

Nixon, the Leicestershire wicketkeeper, plays his first match, against Durham, since breaking a finger on April 19.



Stewart, England's mainstay, seizes on a rare bad ball from Bishop, who conceded only 30 runs in 11 overs

## Bishop's career back on course

The skies that hung over Nottingham were grey and heavy with rain. For Richie Richardson, they probably looked blue through and through, with a crock of gold on the other side of the Trent. At summer's end, when the Test series has been won and lost, the West Indies captain may recall this unremarkable first Test as the day something important happened.

This is only one-day cricket, of course. The Tests will make greater demands of Ian Bishop's mind and body. There were no trumpet peals or clashes of cymbal to herald him back to the dressing-room after England had been held to a modest total. But he had got through his quota of 11 overs on his first game back in the side and taken the wicket of Neil Fairbrother, which he celebrated with a raised fist as if to say: "I'm still here".

He is a survivor all right. In the past three years, since injury blighted a career of



MICHAEL HENDERSON at Trent Bridge

abundant promise, there have been times when Bishop wondered if he would ever bowl another ball in international cricket. Twice he has undergone operations on a back which first played up in 1991 and kept him out of cricket for two years.

At 27, he has at least three years of fast bowling in him at Test level, if he can maintain his fitness, and how Richardson need his wickets. Courtney Walsh, heroic at times, is close to burn-out. Curtly Ambrose appears sat, to the point of lacking interest. The "Benjamin sisters", as some disgruntled Caribbean followers dub Winston and Kenneth, fall short of the standards their predecessors set.

To give some idea of how far Bishop has fallen in the estimation of others, he does not feature in this season's *Playfair Cricket Annual*. One has to search elsewhere to find his performances in Test cricket: 83 wickets at 20 apiece from 18 appearances. Ambrose, by comparison, has taken 237 wickets in 54 Tests at 21. Had Bishop been spared injury, and developed as the early part of his career suggested he might, there would not be much to separate them, statistically speaking.

When he toured England four years ago, Bishop looked a marvellous prospect. He had already played for Derbyshire by then, signed at Michael Holding's prompting, although his county career is

a thing of the past. Derbyshire re-engaged him for the 1993 season, after accepting a specialist's report on his back, and were badly misled. Only this winter, when he returned to the Trinidad team for the Red Stripe Cup, did Bishop finally prove he was fit and available for selection.

He ran in like a good gun from the Pavilion End yesterday, bowling three more overs than Ambrose, who seems more than a marginal figure, if not yet a marginal one. Perhaps, in the words of the Sonheim song, he feels that "weighty affairs will just have to wait", but it is not something appealing from his captain's point of view. Something appalling, more like.

Ambrose has never been the most generous of cricketers. His manner gives the impression of a man who is doing something he doesn't particularly like, for the scrutiny of people he doesn't have any consideration for. He is a great fast bowler but a signally ungracious man.

## Dashing Ward runs riot for Kent

By IVO TENNANT

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (first day of four; Kent won toss): Kent have scored 164 for three wickets against Glamorgan.

NORTH or south of the Medway, east or west of Neath, Trevor Ward scores runs against Glamorgan. Two more in the Britannia Assurance county championship here yesterday and he would have achieved his seventh century in eight first-class matches, a stupendous record. He can be forgiven for running himself out.

Twice Ward has taken two centuries in a match off Glamorgan. They know everything about his game, his relative weakness against spin, his stiff hands, and yet cannot bowl at him. When he crashes the ball around like this, it is hard to imagine that England have never picked him for a limited-overs international.

If he appears to be primarily a one-day batsman, that is because he scores his runs so quickly. For every single that the likes of Benson and Taylor glance or square drive, he seems to pick out a boundary-board or, one should say here, a rhododendron.

Ward lost both partners during this innings, the captain caught at cover point from a casual drive at Dale and Taylor through a broken knuckle when fending off a rising ball from Thomas. Neither did Walker last long. He also drove too expansively outside off stump, giving Merson his 500th victim for Glamorgan.

Ward was dropped when he had made just nine, a straightforward chance to second slip off Watkins. But other than a couple of balls from Croft, he was not troubled after that.

Ward had made 98 off 139 balls when he misjudged the youthful vigour of Thomas at wide mid-on. It was perhaps as well that it rained soon afterwards, for any play that remained would have been anti-climatic.

## Powell's Windsor objective

RODNEY POWELL, who missed Badminton this month because his horse, Comic Relief, had sustained a minor injury, is hoping for consolation at the weekend when he competes with Cambray Apollo in the Brittany Ferries Windsor International Horse Trials, which start today in the Great Park, Jenny MacArthur writes.

Blyth Tail, the former world champion, and two of the riders who are long-listed for the European championships in September — Katie Parker and Kristina Gifford — have withdrawn after injuries to their horses.

## Eden takes stage

Cycling: Ray Eden, a bike courier in central London, who started racing only two years ago, had his biggest success yesterday when he won the 102-mile fifth stage of the Irish FBD Milk Race. Eden won a sprint with Bion Glaser, of Germany, by half a length after the pair had built up a lead of 42 seconds on the chasing pack. Phil Cassidy, of Ireland, retained the yellow jersey.

## Mixed success

Badminton: Four England pairs won through to the last 16 of the mixed doubles at the world championships in Lausanne yesterday. The young partnership of Ian Pearson and Joanne Davies beat Druzhenko and Evtushenko, of the Ukraine, who were seeded in the 9-16 category, 0-15, 15-6, 15-4.

## Hall shows way

Golf: Julie Hall scored a level-par 72 on the second day of her spirited attempt to retain the English women's amateur championship on her home course at Ipswich yesterday. Hall's splendid effort in the second qualifying round left her at the head of the pack on the one-under-par mark.

## THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES FANTASY FIRST XI GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts
1	The Cunning Wascals (C Bell)	5189	28	Yarmes XI (Mr P Sheehan)	4952	55	Best Broom B (Mr R Bloom)	4834	82	Forstons Finest (Mr A Forster)	4826
2	The Bagpipes XI (Mr R Edwards)	5181	29	Rochdale Villa (Mr M Turner)	4952	56	Douglas Demons 1 (Mr D Forbes)	4837	83	Speedball B (Mr R Head)	4826
3	Dave's Demons (D Talbot)	5115	30	The Midlands Third XI (Mr J Plesse)	4937	57	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4877	84	Yarns XI (Mr A Donkersley)	4822
4	Squad Eagles (Mr P Stewart)	5111	31	Weather Report (Mr H Paul)	4933	58	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4877	85	Simmonday Jack (Mr P Rodgers)	4822
5	Admiral's XI (Mr A Goss)	5108	32	Brave Stunt XI (Mr S Sargent)	4911	59	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4877	86	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4822
6	Jeffs Gulls (J Gossling)	5109	33	Rich Tinklers (R Smith)	4925	60	Wells Go For (Mrs K T Sullivan)	4855	87	The Early Birds (Mr B Howes)	4819
7	Wishkesh (Mr R P Cave)	5102	34	The Camp CC (Mr S P Venn)	4922	61	Opponunities (P Stuart)	4855	88	Quenagenen 1st XI (Mr G Montilton)	4819
8	George's Eleven (R Gossling)	5079	35	Norfolk Normads (R Nelson)	4922	62	Northsides XI (Mr J Sargent)	4855	89	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4822
9	Old Donners (Mr J Bartlett)	5078	36	Midwell XI (Mr J Saggerton)	4917	63	Ram's SC (Mr M Sider)	4851	90	Hong Kong Phooey (Mr Murn)	4817
10	11 Earl Brothers (M Dunn)	5066	37	Amadous XI (K Nicholas)	4916	64	On The Grassdale (P Penny)	4848	91	Sawley's XI (M Sawley)	4803
11	Earl and Luck (Mr H Hunt)	5065	38	No Chance XI (M Short)	4916	65	Simmonday Stock (Mr P A Rodgers)	4847	92	Seaspecklers XI (J Elberry)	4803
12	Cambridge XI (Mr J Sargent)	5064	39	All Out For A Duck (Mr G Lynch)	4913	66	Young Turtles (Mr D Jones)	4847	93	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4822
13	Cambridge XI (Mr J Sargent)	5063	40	Type Stub XI (Mr S Sargent)	4911	67	Wells For England (Mr D Horney)	4845	94	Lachroagh Mallt (Mr P K Stevenson)	4803
14	Khanth's XI (Mr P Khanna)	5033	41	Samuel Betts XI (Mr J Sney)	4909	68	Evenen CC (Mr M Seabrook)	4842	95	Taunton A (Mr J Hunt)	4806
15	Pardons Padlocks (P L Campbell)	5031	42	Baldy's Wonders (Mr S Kemp)	4907	69	The Wick Salmons (Mr J McElderry)	4843	96	Village Green XI (Mr M P Daryehart)	4804
16	The Incapables (L J Rennick)	5031	43	Pennylong (Mr Paul)	4904	70	Doyle's XI (Mr E Palmer)	4843	97	Blackbirds XI (Mr J Sargent)	4804
17	Type First XI (Mr J Boyle)	5030	44	Super Stigs XI (Mr G Oliver)	4901	71	NI Pwntm (Mr G Carter)	4840	98	Rockets Eleven (M A Stevenson)	4804
18	The Red Rats	5019	45	County Pine K10 (J Hunt)	4896	72	Morris Dancers (G Morris)	4840	99	Mc Fomgess's XI (Mr G Wade)	4804
19	Malcolm Devon XI (D Reddy)	5018	46	Brach Stone XI (Mr J H Hutchinson)	4896	73	Shesdale XI (Mr J Jones)	4840	100	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4822
20	Heatham Strikers (Mr J Hewlett)	5013	47	Farm Labourers XI (J F Taylor)	4889	74	Brunos Cattles B (H J Taylor)	4838			
21	Hurricane Henry (Mr H Paul)	4890	48	Independence Day (Mr S Vate)	4888	75	Old Valdens (J Jones)	4838			
22	Taylor's Team (Mr A Goss)	4889	49	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4888	76	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4838			
23	Hobbeshire XI (Mr P Karsen)	4884	50	Woodwards 11 (J Johnston)	4882	77	Turkish Delights (C Willis)	4836			
24	The Sweet Gang (Mr C House)	4873	51	All Gess Am Mchic (Mr R MacDonald)	4881	78	Marks First XI (Mr M E Diddridge)	4836			
25	Admiral's XI (Mr A Goss)	4871	52	SP Fashions (Mr P Sargent)	4878	79	County Pine ES (Mr J Hunt)	4836			
26	The Salmon Eleven (Mr SP Venn)	4861	53	Great Westham Railways CC (Mr V Laders)	4878	80	KF Farings (Mrs J G S Pugh)	4836			

Cl Collin Barmmerman, of Weyhill, Andover, was the 2250th person to arrive in our Fantasy First XI cricket competition. His name, Programme Number and Fantasy First XI position are as follows:

2250

Cl Collin Barmmerman, of Weyhill, Andover, was the 2250th person to arrive in our Fantasy First XI cricket competition. His name, Programme Number and Fantasy First XI position are as follows:

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## 15 11



In the same way that rugby has for so long been the metaphor of the old South African society, so Williams, 24, the wing from Paarl, who has scored seven tries in 11 internationals, would for the next four weeks, more than President Mandela, have carried the spirit of the nation. This electric yet modest sportsman is the manifestation of new freedom.

"I could have stayed and changed it," Williams said, "but more than anything, I want South Africa to win the cup, and that's why I had to withdraw. The whole country is behind the team, because as a nation we need victory. Everyone has been supporting me, blacks, whites, Coloureds," — the old definitions still linger — "and I've had phone calls of good wishes from all over the country."

**Steve Tchurba, the Minister for** group our youth, not just!

"Several of this team are in their mid-20s, and will still be there in four years, just as with the Australian team from 1991."

"Maybe we [the non-whites] will have another two or three players by '99, but you can't compare youth with experience."

"Everyone knows it's not going to happen overnight. We, the South African Rugby Union, are in a bind. The communal will is there, for sure. The South African RFU is not."

national under-21 team will now be added to the under-17 and under-19 policy of 50-50 white/non-white selection, only the Springbok team being selected on strict merit.

Williams is the flag-bearer of ambition and hope, yet the responsibility of being a role model for millions is so huge that he tries to submerge himself in being just another rugby player holding the

It is in the long-term interest of those voices, for the fulfilment of "one team", that the Springboks should win. New South Africa needs all the impetus it can gain. Form suggests Australia should win today, leaving South Africa's progress probably at the mercy of England in the quarter-finals. Let us hope it is a great afternoon either

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN BLOEMFONTEIN

ahead of Steve Ford and

At forward, John Davies returns to prop after being suspended after the England match and the 6ft 10in Derwyn Jones is back at lock. Only Emyr Lewis remains in the back row, where Stuart Davies, who played against France, and Hemi Taylor, who was omitted from the game against Ireland, are the pairing on the flank.

Queried on what is perceived as the lack of pace in the back row, Evans said that "If you talk about 100 metres time-trials, perhaps they may not have a lot of pace, but they are very accomplished rugby players and their anticipated speed is the best combination we can pick. There is pace and anticipated speed and I don't think there is anybody who can anticipate play better than those three."

With Adrian Davies, who last played for Wales against Fiji on the summer tour of 1994, gaining his eighth cap at stand-off half, the three-quarters are an untried combination. Only Evans — the former Wales captain, who wins his 52nd cap — and Hall,

**Mana Otai, the No 8, will captain Tonga in their open-**

second successive victory on their six-match tour of Australia at Olympic Park, Melbourne, yesterday. Seven first-half tries and five after the break brought England a resounding victory, with Matthew Dawson, scrum half, collecting a hat-trick.

"It has a lot to do with the way we are going to play," he said. "There is a very, very fine line in selection. The cutting edge of the mechanics of selection at this level is not easy." This team, he felt, was the best combination to play Japan.

Murphy, second from left, directs Ireland in training in Johannesburg yesterday as they prepare to meet New Zealand on Saturday.

**FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
IN JOHANNESBURG**

Milner was a professional diplomat; Murphy is anything but. Nicknamed "Noisy", he is a friendly, joking bear of a man who never lets the seriousness of an Ireland defeat — and there have been four in the past five games — dampen

**IRELAND**

J. Staples (Harlequins); R. Wallace (Garryowen); B. Mullin (Blackrock College); J. Bell (Ballymena); S. Geoghegan (Bath); E. Elwood (Lansdowne); M. Bradley (Cork Constitution); N. Flanagan (Wexford); T. Kingston (Dolphin); G. East, G. Halpin (London Irish); D. Conarty (Cork Constitution); N. Francis (Old Belvedere); G. Fulcher (Cork Constitution); D. McBride (Malone); P. Johns (Dungannon).

Replacements: M. Field (Malone); P. Burke (Cork Constitution); N. Hogan (Tenerife); A. Foley (Shannon); P. Wallace (Blackrock College); K. Wood (Garryowen).

"They want to be careful with the game," Murphy warned. "I hope we haven't seen the end of Lions tours. Rugby is not for an elite. It is for your sons and my sons. I have solicitors, doctors, lots of professional people in my team. Will they never be able

to play international rugby again?"

Ireland's hopes on Saturday will be boosted by the playing of a new anthem — *Ireland's Call* — written and sung by Phil Coulter, the writer of *Puppet on a String* and *Congratulations*. "Have you heard it, boys?" Murphy asked. "It's great music."

A cassette was produced. "Stand to attention, lads," Murphy commanded. Soon notes loudly filled the room — but of the wrong tune. *A Rainy Night in Georgia* is not likely to do much for Ireland.

on a dry night in Johannesburg. "Does anybody know how to work this thing?" Murphy asked, exasperated. This time it worked. "Ireland, Ireland, Together standing tall, Shoulder to shoulder. We'll answer Ireland's call..." It could have been written specially for this game.

"If you beat New Zealand it'll be the most popular song in Ireland," someone said. Murphy laughed. "We have never beaten them," he replied. "And to do so on Saturday, we will have to do everything right."

Please enclose your name, address and daytime telephone number. Note that given the short time before departure you must have a valid 10 year passport.

**FROM MARK SOUSTER IN BUSTENBURG**

Pool A	
Today	
South Africa v Australia	
(at Cape Town, 2.30pm)	
Tomorrow	
Canada v Romania	
(at Port Elizabeth, 7.0pm)	
May 20	
South Africa v Romania	
(at Cape Town, 1.30pm)	
May 21	
Australia v Canada	
(at Port Elizabeth, 12.0pm)	
June 3	
Australia v Romania	
(Stellenbosch, 2.0pm)	
South Africa v Canada	
(Port Elizabeth, 7.0pm)	
Pool B	
May 27	
Western Samoa v Italy	
(East London, 12.0pm)	
England v Argentina	
(Durban, 4.0pm)	
May 30	
Western Samoa v Argentina	

The coach, Dominique Devanier, who in his prime played in the same Cahors team as Benazzi, Benetton and Charvet, and who master-minded the Ivory Coast's unexpected presence at the Rugby World Cup, insisted that, even in the face of heavy defeat, his charges will not resort to bruising tactics. "Fighting is necessary in rugby," he said, confusingly, "but you don't play to fight."

**simply getting fit.**  
Athanese Dali, the captain and one of several players based in France, saw Scotland win at Parc des Princes in the five nations' championship. "The Scots are one of the great teams of the rugby world," he said. We cannot win but it's important for us to progress."

**IVORY COAST:** V Kouassi, P Bouaziz, J Sathico, I Nienkou, C Ngbeba, A Dala (captain), F Dupont, A Bile, E Angerson, J Kone, G Bissani, P Pire, I Llangstad, S Simono.

<b>All times BST</b>	<b>May 31</b> England v Italy (Durban, 4.0pm)	<b>May 30</b> Scotland v Ivory Coast (Rusensburg, 8.0pm)
<b>Pool A</b>	<b>June 4</b> Argentina v Italy (East London, 12.0pm)	<b>Scotland v Tonga</b> (Pretoria, 7.0pm)
<b>Pool A Today</b> South Africa v Australia (at Cape Town, 2.30pm)	<b>England v Western Samoa</b> (Durban, 7.0pm)	<b>June 3</b> Tonga v Ivory Coast (Rusensburg, 15.0pm)
<b>Pool B</b> Canada v Romania (at Port Elizabeth, 7.0pm)	<b>Pool C</b> Italy v Japan (Rusensburg, 2.0pm)	<b>Scotland v France, Pretoria (4pm)</b>
<b>Pool B Today</b> South Africa v Romania (at Cape Town, 1.30pm)	<b>May 30</b> New Zealand v Ireland (Durban, 7.0pm)	<b>Top two in each pool qualify for quarter-finals</b>
<b>May 31</b> Australia v Canada (at Port Elizabeth, 12.0pm)	<b>May 31</b> Ireland v Japan (Durban, 2.0pm)	<b>Quarter-finals</b> June 10: pool D winner v pool C runner-up, Durban (12.00pm), pool A winner v pool B runner-up, Johannesburg (2.30pm).
<b>June 4</b> Australia v Romania (Gardenburg, 5.0pm)	<b>New Zealand v Wales</b> (Johannesburg, 7.0pm)	<b>June 11: pool B winner v pool A runner-up, Durban (12.00pm), pool C winner v pool D runner-up, Pretoria (2.30pm).</b>
<b>South Africa v Canada</b> (Port Elizabeth, 7.0pm)	<b>June 4</b> New Zealand v Japan (Durban, 12.0pm)	<b>Semi-finals</b> June 17: Durban winner v Johannesburg winner, Durban (8pm).
<b>May 27</b> England v Argentina (Durban, 4.0pm)	<b>Pool D</b> Tanzania Scotland v Ivory Coast (Rusensburg, 3.0pm)	<b>June 18: Cape Town winner v Pretoria winner, Cape Town (8pm)</b>
<b>Western Samoa v Argentina</b> (Durban, 4.0pm)	<b>France v Tonga</b> (Rusensburg, 3.0pm)	<b>Third-place play-off</b> June 25: Pretoria (4pm)
		<b>Final</b> June 30: Johannesburg (8pm)

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<b>5/1</b> .....	<b>6-10 pts</b> .....	<b>4/1</b>
<b>11/1</b> .....	<b>11-15 pts</b> .....	<b>13/2</b>
<b>22/1</b> .....	<b>16-20 pts</b> .....	<b>12/1</b>

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# William HILL



# 'When I'm done with tennis, this is going to be my home until I die'

## Relaxed Rusedski courts attention

By STUART JONES  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GREG RUSEDSKI'S introduction to the British media bears comparison with Bill Shankly's boast to journalists assembled for a press conference at Anfield some 30 years ago. The Liverpool manager announced that he had acquired a Scottish centre half called Ron Yeats. "He's in the next room," Shankly said. "Go in there, walk round him and admire him."

Rusedski, all 6ft 3in of him, has not technically been bought by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), but he stands as the most illustrious newcomer to have been presented indirectly to the public by the governing body.

Rusedski, born in Canada but officially accepted as a British competitor by the International Tennis Federation over the weekend, played his part admirably at Queen's Club yesterday. He was particularly adept at fending off intrusive questions about girlfriends past and present.

He declared his intention to visit Dewsbury, the birthplace of his mother, to help to take the game to children, to reach the quarter-finals at Wimbledon this year and to feature in the national championships at Telford. He even went as far as to commit himself to his adopted country for life.

"When I'm done with tennis, this is going to be my home until the day I die. In my heart, I feel British and my mother told me that I should go with what my heart says. I feel at home here but I haven't picked up on cricket yet."

He conducted himself with such charm and dignity, patiently agreeing to every interview requested by radio and television, that nobody could have faulted his opening performance. The genuine test of his character, though, lies ahead and not necessarily on the clay courts of Roland Garros next week.

Continually sipping water, he revealed that he has been suffering from tonsillitis for a week. Although he managed to reach the final of a tourna-



Rusedski, the new recruit of British tennis, was a model of courtesy and charm at Queen's Club yesterday. Photograph: Des Jensen

ment in Coral Springs to lift himself to 47th in the world rankings, he may not start his British career at the French Open.

He is to act on his doctor's recommendation but, considering the interest he will soon attract here, he might be advised to change his original plans anyway and practise on grass. He should be prepared to head the cast on the centre

court on the opening day at Queen's.

He proclaims that he is ready to bear the full weight of domestic expectation. Indeed, he relishes the prospect. "If the crowd is involved, that would be a bonus, an asset." Although he confessed to being susceptible to nerves, he looks forward to being the centre of attention.

"Everybody reacts in differ-

ent ways. McEnroe used to argue with officials, Lendl plucked at his eyebrows, Agassi jokes with the crowd. Me, I laugh inwardly at my coach because his face stays the same but his hands start pumping at 100mph whenever he is anxious."

His experience last year, when he slipped 80 places down the rankings, was salutary. Instead of being the next

man to break into the top 20, as everybody persisted in telling him, and winning every match, as he kept telling himself he would as he stepped on court, he buckled under the strain.

He recognises now that he is "not going to play fantastically well every day", but he would be comfortable about competing against anybody on grass with the exception of Agassi,

the world No 1, whom he has never beaten. In practice, he has been sharing sets with Pete Sampras, the world No 2.

Nor is he upset by the adverse comments attributed to his new colleagues, Mark Petchey and Chris Wilkinson. "If I was in their position, I would probably feel the same way." In his first outing against the press, game, set and match to Rusedski.

## Mansell's rivals regret passing of a showman

FROM OLIVER HOIT  
IN MONTE CARLO

THE official programme carried the picture of every driver due to race, so the autograph-hunters trudged away from the harbour front with one signature missing from their collection yesterday. The other drivers wanted to know whether he had jumped or been pushed by McLaren and Mercedes.

Nigel Mansell might be a grand prix non-person now but his absence dominated the build-up to the opening day's action in the Monaco Grand Prix today more than his recently-diminished stature could have. The preamble to the race around the streets here usually builds steadily to

a crescendo, but yesterday there was a sense of anticlimax after the news of the deposing of Mansell on Tuesday.

Predictably, some of Mansell's many detractors sought to suggest there was a party atmosphere at McLaren now that he had gone, that a cloud had been lifted. The drivers, though, almost to a man, expressed regret that he had left Formula One in such downbeat circumstances and that the supporters would be denied his showmanship.

Damon Hill and David Coulthard spoke as admirers rather than former rivals. Gerhard Berger mourned the passing of an old adversary and Riccardo Patrese, Mansell's team-mate when he

won the world championship in 1992, remembered him in his pomp.

Coulthard's views seemed particularly apposite. Their paths crossed only briefly but their fates were intertwined. McLaren tried to sign Coulthard, but Frank Williams decided at the end of last season that he represented the future and handed him the plum job at Williams alongside Hill. Mansell got the leftovers at McLaren.

Mansell never really appeared to come to terms with that disappointment, while Coulthard has gone from strength to strength. He lives here in the principality now, in the same area as Michael Schumacher, the world at his feet. Unwittingly, he hastened

Mansell's departure by depriving him of the Williams drive that may have motivated him to one last effort but yesterday he had only praise for the man who helped to inspire his rise.

"When I first met him, I was racing karts," Coulthard said. "It was a very special moment for me. He told me to stick to it and that one day I might make it to being a grand prix driver. Frank never really explained to me why he chose me instead of Nigel but it gave me an awful lot of confidence."

"From a competitive point of view it has been easier for me in a Williams than it would have been in a McLaren. But in a few months, we might be saying 'I bet he wishes he had stayed around'. McLaren are

going to go forward. They are getting closer and closer to the pace already."

"I would only like to see him come back in a competitive situation. It is unlikely he will get a position in a top team and, although he could probably race in British Touring Cars, when you think of Mansell, you want to think of top-line racing. The opportunity for that seems to have gone."

While Mansell relaxes at his golf club in Devon, the excitement is building to fever pitch for Coulthard. He has driven the track here in a Renault Clio, walked it, ridden around it on a push-bike. He dreams about it at night. These kind of things, this sense of anticipation, Nigel Mansell will miss.



Coulthard: praise

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**MONACO GRAND PRIX**

Full details and qualifying times from Thursday and Saturday, with warm-up and post race reports from Sunday's race at MONTE CARLO.

**RUGBY UNION**

World Cup  
Pool A  
Australia v South Africa (at Cape Town, 2.30)

**CRICKET**

Britannia Assurance county championship  
11.0, first day of four, 110 overs minimum  
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Middlesex  
GLOUCESTER: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire

**FOOTBALL**

Bell's Scottish League  
Play-offs, second leg  
Dundee v Aberdeen (3) (7.30)  
Canada Cup  
Chile v Northern Ireland (Edmonton, Canada, 2.30am tomorrow)

**OTHER SPORT**

BASKETBALL: European championship qualifying tournament (Birmingham).  
EQUINE: English: Three-day event (Windsor).  
GOLF: English: women's amateur championship (Ipswich).  
TENNIS: Women's world doubles tournament (Edinburgh).  
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Sheffield v Oxford (7.45).

Answers from page 42

**GAMALIEL**  
(a) A learned and respected Pharisee who spoke against the rough handling of the apostles on the grounds that, if they were doing only men's work, it would come to nothing, but that, if they were doing God's work, opposition to them was futile. He was credited in later legend with having retrieved the body of Stephen after he had been stoned to death.

**MELCHIZEDEK**  
(a) Priest-king of Salem who blessed Abraham and is said to have received in return a title of the spoils of Abraham's victory over his enemies. It is not certain that Melchizedek is a personal name, and the OT offers no explanation why the victorious Abraham should have given him anything. He is a mysterious figure who has neither father nor mother and so became a symbol of autogenerative power. His stately, elongated figure is the first to catch the eye as you begin to take in the great north porch of Chartres.

**ADONIZABEK**  
(a) A king who was served his own disgusting medicine. In his heyday he cut off the thumbs and big toes of 70 kings and made them scramble for food under his table. When the tribes of Judah and Simeon made war on him and defeated him, they did the same to him.

**MICAHIAH**  
(a) A prophet who alone among his syncretistic fellow prophets refused to provide Abah's victory in his proposed campaigns against Syria. Abah had him thrown into prison but in the ensuing battle Abah was killed.

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1... Rb3+! 2... g3 44 and White has no good defence against the coming 3... Qd5+ and ... Qg2 mate.

### RADIO CHOICE

## Strong on rhetoric

English Eccentrics: Radio 3, 8.15pm.

Several times during tonight's concert interval talk, the first in the return of an occasional series of monologues, Sir Roy Strong claims that he is not an eccentric at all, just someone who sees life as a banquet and who hates being pigeon-holed. "I don't mind making a fool of myself," he says. "There's always room for fun." What he clearly does still mind is the "orchestrated vicious campaign" against him at the V & A where he is proud of his achievements as director. But he always comes up smiling: "It takes a lot to sink me." As for eccentricity, this country still respects people who do not conform, something to do with living on an island he reckons. And, he says, it is fatal to go through life caring what people think. Not something Sir Roy, now 58, has greatly worried about.

Music Live 95: First Ladies of Country, Radio 2, 7.30pm.

The five-day live music festival from Birmingham, spread over four national radio channels, kicks off in style at the National Indoor Arena in a specially extended edition of David Allan's country music programme. Sharing the bill are three singers who have between them chalked up almost 150 country hits — Rita Coolidge, Crystal Gayle and Tammy Wynette. The Gospel Train pulls into Birmingham just afterwards and the evening ends up at Ronnie Scott's in the same city until well after midnight with Cleo Laine and husband John Dankworth. Kenneth Gostling

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo, 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnson, including at 12.30 12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Nat 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 News- beat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00- 4.00am Chris Sturgess	All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe (NW only). Off the Shelf 6.45 From Our News Correspondent 6.00 News 6.30 Learning (NW only: Europe) 6.45 Opera Behind the Scenes (NW only: Europe) 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.20 Sport 8.00 News 8.15 Farming 8.30 Network UK 9.00 News (NW only: News in German) 9.15 Forth 9.45 Books 10.00 10.15 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf Noon News 12.30pm That's Cool 1.00 News (NW only: News in German) 1.15 Britain 1.30 Assignment 2.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multirack 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Network UK (NW only: News in German) 5.00 News 5.15 Letters Home 5.45 Fourth Estate 6.00 News 6.15 Do You Know? 6.30 World Today (NW only: News in German) 6.45 Sport (NW only: News in German) 7.00 News 7.30 Assignment 8.00 News 9.00 Europe 9.30 Outlook 9.55 Words of Faith 10.00 News 10.15 Britain 10.30 Meridian 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Health Midnight News 12.10am Topical Report 12.15 Megamix 12.45 Sport 1.00 Newswatch 1.30 On the Move 1.45 Britain 2.00 News 2.15 Letters Home 2.45 Global 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Faith Twist 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Faith
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
FM Stereo, 6.00am Martin Kelner 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 5.15 Pause for Thought 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Chris Stuart 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Headlines 7.30 Music Live 95: First Ladies of Country, See Choice 10.00 The Gospel Train 10.45 Music Live 95: Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes 12.20am Steve Madden 3.00 Alan Lester	6.00am Neil Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Sneakmax Snorcs 1.00pm Only News Concerts 3.00pm James 6.00 Classic Records 7.00 The Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Martin 1.00am Robin Booth
RADIO 5 LIVE	MAGNIFICENT RADIO
5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview, 7.15 The Police's 5.05 The Magicians, incl at 10.20 A Handful of Hooters; 11.00 News; Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.30pm Moneycheck 1.35 Crime in the Community 2.05 Rugby Union World Cup: South Africa Australia 4.15 John Inverdale incl at 6.15 Crime Update 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 sport 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly 8.05 Sports Centre 9.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night	6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 8.00 Richard Stern 12.00 Graham Down 1.00 News Nick Abbot 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Jimmy Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks
TALK RADIO	RADIO 3
6.00am Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Riebaum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Maurice Den 8.00 McGiffin 10.00 Caesar 1.00am Ian Collins	6.30am Open University: Forster Indian Views 7.00 On Air, presented by Andrew McGregor 9.00 Composers of the Week: Wolfgang Amadeus 10.00 Musical Experiments, from Birmingham, Artists of the Week: CSO: Shostakovich (Sally, Hypotheticals) 11.00 Murder: 10.00 Paganini (Moses Fantasy); Van Dyken (Song of the Cello); 11.04 Haverford Brian (Symphony No 10: Toccata and Fugue) 12.00 The Golden Hour (Adagio in E flat); Schumann (Midnight Scene, Scenes from Goethe's Faust) 12.00 Voices: Songs by Barlow (i) 1.00pm Under Orchestra under Roy Goodman, with Malcolm Birns, piano, performs music by Beethoven, Weber and Schubert 2.00 Scholastic Radio Q and A 2.05 in the News 2.25 Something to Think About 2.40 Music Workshop
RADIO 4	RADIO 5
6.55am Shipping 6.00 News, incl Weather 6.10 Farming 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News: Face the Facts (i) 9.30 Inside Out (3/4) 10.00-10.30 News: The Doctors (FM only): Medical drama 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 From Plato to the Present (LW only): The Crooked Timber of Humanity, by Isaiah Berlin. Read by J.J. Murphy 10.30 Scholastic Radio Q and A 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Radio Times Past: The Invasion of May 1955 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Letters to Mam, by William Ingram. Fact-based cases of a young Welshman who is accused of murdering a member of the aristocracy in 1920s London 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift	3.00 Fairness: A Singer's Celebration. The broadcast of four concerts to celebrate the BBC Singers 70th anniversary 4.35 Fairness: The British Tough, Hugh Aston, Thomas Tells; Andrew Newman, William Ingham and Thomas Torrans 5.00 The Magic Machine 5.15 Music Live 95: In Tune, live from Pebble Mill 7.30 Fairness: Nash Essential: The Musical Friend, with Patricia Rozario, soprano, including at 8.15- 8.35 English Eccentrics: Dr Roy Strong, See Choice 9.25 The Golden Hour (i) 9.45 How to Make a Musical (i) 10.45 Night Waves, with Christopher Cook 11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestras: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Richard Baines

**Watch the Pinocchio ad on TV tonight and you could win a trip to Disneyland Paris.**

There's some great news on TV tonight for Disney fans. Ads announcing the video release of Walt Disney's Classic 'Pinocchio' will be on during 'The Bill' and right after 'Heartbeat'. Just remember what Jimmy Cricket says about the video and call 0990 112273. If you answer correctly, you could be amongst the 10 prize-draw winners and you and your family will be off to Disneyland Paris! Now ain't that swell?

مكتبة الأصول



# Having acquired the taste, I'd like more

Thou shalt not cover thy colleagues' viewing night. But on a Wednesday night — ooh, it's becoming hard. As the cultural desert stretches ahead, visions of Lynne Truss and Tuesday suddenly flash before me. "Well, cats — shall we watch *Out of the Blue* or *Dangerous Lady*? Or perhaps a bit more of that nice Trevor Eve being horrid in *The Politician's Wife*?" I can almost hear the purrs of critical comment.

Then there are Sundays. I mean, while all I had to endure over last night was the Champions League Final, Lynne gets *The Verdict*, *The Hanging Gale* and *The Countess*. On second thoughts, perhaps she can keep Sundays.

Which means I get to keep Wednesday and the chance to bid a fond adieu (I hope not adieu) to *Edouard de Pomiane* and *French Cooking in Ten Minutes* (BBC 2) over the six weeks of this

culinary brief encounter. de Pomiane and his rapid cuisine have grown considerably upon my ear becoming gradually attuned to his extraordinary account of a sort of French-English of Polish descent that thinks nothing of cracking eggs into a "boyle".

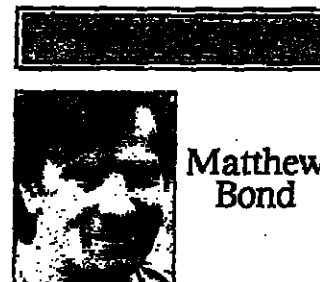
de Pomiane is, of course, a terrible gastronomic fraud. You rather imagine that if microwave dinners had been available in the 1930s he would have given up cooking altogether and concentrated entirely on "the pleasures of life". He thinks nothing of opening a few tins, substituting Bovril for bouillon and even — *sacré salmone*! — reheating cooked chicken.

Last night, however, was clearly a big one for him and Madame X, his glamorous dining companion who stood him up in programme four (presumably fed up with all five courses arriving at once) but now appears to have her own key.

De Pomiane was in black tie and on the menu were hors d'oeuvres (no cooking, but an awful lot of unwrapping of grease-proof paper), tournedos Rossini, haricots à la basquaise, plateau de fromage and bananes sautées. In short, a seducer's dinner.

Whether it was successful or not, who knows? I think the haricots may have been a mistake. But it doesn't matter. What made the series so enjoyable has been its attention to detail — from the authentic-looking 1930s kitchen down to the passing street noises below. But best of all has been Christopher Royle's performance as the meticulous de Pomiane. Let's hope there are seconds.

As one small oasis dries up, another has sprung to the aid of the weary Wednesday night viewer in the shape of I-Casualty (Channel 4), the second pro-



Matthew Bond

gramme of which more than lived up to the promise of the first. The key to its success is Robert Llewellyn, who writes and presents the show with considerable humour. True, his impersonation of Jeremy Clarkson, on a second inspection, is looking rather more like Tinker from *Lovejoy*, but that's a minor flaw.

I'm also having trouble working out whether Barry's DIY gadgets

are a joke or not. Last week's furry microphone cover was plausible enough, but a bit of plastic cut out of an ice-cream carton, that fits over your ear to keep your carpiece in place? I do hope it's a joke.

The central theme of last night's programme was wedding videos and how to improve them, in which Llewellyn was joined by Ken Russell, and the groom's uncle, Jimmy. Russell, who met me cleverly combining the first cut away of the day with the first drink. Less cleverly, we also caught him zooming in while recording, a clear breach, as far as I can recall, of one of last week's Golden Rules. But perhaps that's genius at work.

Interestingly, although there was plenty of evidence of genius at work (I'd have liked a wind machine for that conflict shot), there was little sign of the footage that the great man actually shot. What we did see was Uncle

Jimmy's rather unsteady interpretation of events ("What was happening there, Jim?"). "Oh, I was just trying to get comfortable, Ken", a technique which Russell dubbed the steady-ish cam. Uncle Jimmy has now given up the scrap-metal business and is working as a camera operator on *Out of the Blue*. Just joking, just joking.

Both the highs and the lows of investigative journalism have been in evidence on *Dispatches* (Channel 4). The highs came last week with the brouhaha surrounding Sir Jerry Wiggin, whose unlikely impersonation of Sebastian Coe the programme first unearthed. The lows came last night with a grovelling and hugely expensive libel apology to Chris Brasher and John Disley, the organisers of the London Marathon.

In between came the type of film that has made *Dispatches* such a

consistently mixed bag over the years. Call me a small-islander, but I found it as difficult to get excited about *Krasnojarsk 26* as I did to spell it. The basic gist of the Russian-made film is that there is this huge nuclear plant, built under a Siberian mountain, that produces weapon-grade plutonium. The nuclear problem is that the arms race has ended, the demand for plutonium has slumped and there is no money to maintain the plant. In other words, Kerbourn!

Not even the promise of a bang two-and-a-half times as loud as that of Chernobyl grabbed me, although I was briefly diverted by the curious sight of an interviewer delivering his replies while sitting on a stool, stark naked. The rest was worrying, but too familiar. "For the first time, our cameras see..." promised the narration. "Oh no," I groaned, "not more rusty pipes." Yup — miles of them.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (21854)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10538125)
- 9.05 Kiboy: Robert Kiboy-Sik chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (189651)
- 10.00 News (Coastal), regional news and weather (7717458) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (s) (1852030)
- 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick: Weekly magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick (s) (465854)
- 12.00 News (Coastal), regional news and weather (7717458) 12.05 Pebble Mill: Alan Titchmarsh introduces the start of BBC Radio's "Music Live" Festival with the BBC Big Band (s) (5515019) 12.50 Regional News and weather (1594274)
- 1.00 One2One News (Coastal) and weather (55552) 1.05 The Big Breakfast (s) (1841058) 1.50 Going for Gold: Henry Kelly introduces another round of the general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (3800516)
- 2.15 Matt Houston: The millionaire private detective is hired to find the killer of a shipping magnate. Starring Lee Horsley (s) (357564)
- 3.50 Pingu: Animated adventures of a penguin (3600458) 3.55 Why Did the Chicken? School team quiz show (s) (775125) 4.10 Speed Racer: (Coastal) (243935) 4.35 The Ant and Dec Show: (Coastal) (s) (1569303)
- 5.00 Newsround: (Coastal) (9867800) 5.10 Escape from Jupiter: Science-fiction adventure series. (Coastal) (s) (518038)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Coastal) (s) (373050)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Coastal) and weather (729)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (300)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops: (Coastal) (s) (6105)
- 7.30 EastEnders: (Coastal) (s) (293)
- 8.00 Wildlife on One: Nightingales. New photographic techniques reveal how flying squirrels can travel through forests at speed. (Coastal) (s) (7854)
- 8.30 Paul Merton's Life of Comedy: The comedian continues with his selection of clips from 40 years of television comedy. (Coastal) (s) (6361)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Coastal), regional news and weather (9293)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly: (Coastal) (s) (41922)



A telephone post, centre, is arrested (10.00pm)

## BBC2

- 6.20 Open University
- 8.00 Breakfast News (Coastal and signing) (7884080)
- 8.15 Westminster: On-Line with Andrew Neil (s) (4081372)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 9.00-10.00 Playdays (1970498) 1.45 Storyline (5501530) 2.00 The Little Polar Bear (12654038) 2.05 Holly Jerry (1285303)
- 2.10 The Hollywood Collection: The life and career of Gregory Peck. (Coastal) (s) (9010570)
- 3.00 News (Coastal) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (s) (5618635) 3.55 News (Coastal) and weather (3607303)
- 4.00 Today's Day: Recent history quiz (s) (922)
- 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook: (s) (106)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: The guests are people who have attended an unusual self-defence class. (Coastal) (s) (2401361)
- 5.40 The Long Goodbye: Film director Mike Leigh talks about the nervous breakdown he had after his father's death (s) (357187)
- 6.00 Quantum Leap (s) (Coastal) (s) (277274)
- 6.45 Lifesize: A young Tory exchanges lifestyles with a single mother (s) (Coastal) (s) (870729)
- 7.00 The Mrs Merton Show: The outrageous agony aunt talks to Dale Winton, Mary Whitehouse, royal butler Peter Russell and Derek Jameson (s) (Coastal) (s) (5748)
- 7.30 The Business: The Laundrymen. (Coastal) (s) (835)
- 8.00 Play It Again: Paul Jones selects his favourite music from the Pebble Mill series (s) (s) (549)



Gary Rhodes, centre, visits a fryer (8.30pm)

- 8.30 More Rhodes around Britain: Chef Gary Rhodes samples Northern recipes. (Coastal) (s) (4903)
- 9.00 FILM: Father, Son and the Mistress (1992) starring Jack Lemmon. An eccentric millionaire tries to reunite his fragmented family by giving up his fortune and returning to his old neighbourhood. Directed by Jay Sandrich. (Coastal) (8564)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Sarah Kelly: (Coastal) (442774)
- 11.15 Letterman in London: The guests include Jamie Lee Curtis and Annie Lennox (s) (507057)
- 12.00 Open View (s) (8610330) 12.05am Images of the Cosmos: Venus Unveiled (5037828) 12.30 Weather (872143)
- 12.35 The Record: The day in Parliament presented by Robert Orchard (s) (720442), Ends at 1.05
- 4.30-5.00 BBC Select: Developing Family Literacy (82152)
- 5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (s) (72404)

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## BBC1, 10.00pm

Inside Story: Telephone Terror  
According to British Telecom, 15 million malicious phone calls are made each year, of which two-thirds are directed at women. A documentary not guaranteed to make you sleep easily at night features some of the victims and also the attempts, increasingly successful, to catch the perpetrators. But even when BT technology manages to trace calls, prosecutions are comparatively rare and punishments light. Diane, a single mother with three young children who received more than 200 calls in a few weeks, saw her tormentor escape with a conditional discharge. At least Diane fared better than Kym, whose caller followed up his barrage of obscenities by kidnapping and assaulting her. It must have taken guts for her to face the cameras and relive the experience.



Katy on her life since school (C4, 9.30pm)

True Stories: The Class of '62  
Channel 4, 9.30pm  
Marilyn Gaunt left her secondary school in Leeds as a 16-year-old in the early 1960s. In 1993 she filmed a reunion with her old classmates. The footage shot then forms a prelude to her latest film in which she catches up on six of her friends, now approaching 50. The "where-are-they-now?" formula makes irresistible viewing. The sample is obviously random, but these women seem to have suffered more than most. In every case the story is of determination to overcome life's knocks. Five of the six have been divorced. One has a handicapped child, another looks after a three-year-old grandson. The sixth is still with her original husband. Her emotional pain comes from looking after an elderly mother with Alzheimer's disease.

The Business: The Laundrymen  
BBC2, 7.30pm  
Should anybody be puzzled by the term money laundering, Jeffrey Robinson's clear and accessible guide should make everything clear. Robinson is an American writer, but on this evidence he is equally at home on the screen as he is at the word processor. Having explained what laundering is, how "dirty" money (much of these days from drug dealing) is turned into respectable assets, he moves on to the more difficult question of how to stop it. Robinson compares the systems of control operated in New York and London and concludes that the British is the easier to crack. A New York district attorney agrees: "London is a better place for bad guys to do business." Not surprisingly, this is disputed in the City.

Men Behaving Badly  
BBC1, 9.30pm  
The behaviour gets no better as Simon Nye's comedy about two sex-obsessed flatmates returns for a new series. Gary (Martin Clunes) is busy insulting girlfriend Dorothy, who wants a baby, while Tony (Neil Morrissey) takes advantage of Deborah's door key to ride through her underwear. Many a true word is spoken in sex, and no doubt Gary and Tony are taken from life and only a fraction larger. We are expected to laugh at their awfulness, rather than with it, though as Alf Garnett showed, such jokes can backfire. In any case there is too much smut and not enough wit. Political incorrectness can be excused, but only if it is funny enough. Peter Waymark

## CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (4278854)
- 9.25m, Loss or Draw with Bob Mills (8122380) 9.55 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (1957545)
- 10.00 Step by Step: American comedy series (s) (s) (50729)
- 10.30 This Morning with Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley (4559090) 12.10pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (3436770)
- 12.15 News (Teletext) and weather (2774832)
- 12.30 Home and Away (Teletext) (56854) 1.00 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (95380)
- 1.30 Rugby World Cup 1995: Alastair Hignell and Trevor McDonald present live coverage from Newlands. President Nelson Mandela officially opens the Rugby World Cup. The ceremony is followed by the first match between hosts South Africa and defending champions Australia (16951)
- 4.30 Warner Brothers Cartoon (5736212)
- 4.45 Antimatter (s) (Teletext) (s) (1583583)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating. (Teletext) (1294651)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (530622)
- 5.55 Your Show: Members of the public air their views (544632)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (125)
- 6.30 London Tonight with Alastair Hignell and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (477)



The men's enthusiasm is dampened (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Emmerdale: The women seek revenge when the men visit the village hall. (Teletext) (3274)
- 7.30 3-D: Julia Somerville presents a report on the health hazards of bottle-feeding in the Third World (361)
- 8.00 The Bill: Four Wallers, a family of gypsies is accused of robbery. (Teletext) (2922)
- 8.30 HeartBeats: Outbreaks. Nostalgic drama starring Nick Berry and Niamh Cusack. Projects rears its ugly head when a circus family arrives in the village (s) (Teletext) (s) (12651)
- 9.30 Animal Detectives: Whales. EIA investigators travel to the Faroe Islands to witness the annual whale cull, when approximately 2,000 whales are killed for the sake of tradition. (Teletext) (s) (36090)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (114019)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (114019)
- 10.40 Rugby World Cup 1995: Mark Austin and Mary Nightingale present highlights of today's opening ceremony and the match between South Africa and Australia (10130)
- 11.40 The Frost Programme: Sir David Frost is joined by Rolf Harris. Plus, a studio discussion on Heathrow's proposed Terminal 5 (s) (409729)
- 12.40am Alan Partridge (s) (5519404)
- 1.35m Shift (5226317)
- 2.25 The Best of (s) (2963572)
- 3.20 The Album Show (s) (s) (8529794)
- 4.15 On the Live Side featuring Billy Cobham, Stephanie Grappelli and Frank Morgan (s) (1617252)
- 4.35 The Little Picture Show (s) (9428423)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (9930). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Split and Hercules (7046889)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (90835)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life: Trivia quiz game for couples. Presented by Bill Costly (s) (s) (16106)
- 9.30 Schools: What's It...? (435477) 9.45 Ready, Set, Go (4373632) 10.00 Equinox (3989038) 10.53 Schools at Work (7954274) 11.00 Technology for Today (2767) 11.30 Film and Video Showcase (1937030) 11.40 The Friday Programme (3999800)
- 12.00 House to House: Moyra's political magazine (21670)
- 12.30 Sesame Street (s) (74903) 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (s) (s) (3800552)
- 1.55 The Voice Over Queen: A short about an aspiring actress who is forced to record electric gadget advertisements to make ends meet (3550075)
- 2.15 FILM: The Late George Apley (1947, b/w) starring Ronald Colman. A satirical comedy about a Bostonian who tries to organise the romantic lives of his son and daughter. With Richard Ney and Peggy Cummins. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (301632)
- 4.00 Jimmy's: More cases from the St James's Hospital, Leeds (s) (Teletext) (993)
- 4.30 Fifteen-to-One: William G. Stewart with another round of the last-minute, knock-out general knowledge quiz. (Teletext) (s) (274)
- 5.00 Ricki Lake: The guests are young women who are members of the Ku Klux Klan. (Teletext) (s) (503041)
- 5.45 Terrytoons: A Deputy Dawg double bill (367835)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show (s) (Teletext) (767)
- 6.30 Saved By the Bell: Campus comedy. (Teletext) (s) (448)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (121941)
- 7.55 The Slot: Viewers' video soapbox (457699)



Cliff Richard has funded a tennis trust (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Fair Game: In the fifth of his six-part series on sport in Britain, Greg Dyke looks at the reasons for the country's consistent lack of success in the world of lawn tennis. (Teletext) (s) (3944)
- 8.30 The Crystal Maze: Contestants tackle the four time zones, led by Edward Tudor-Pole. (Teletext) (s) (10293)
- 9.30 True Stories: The Class of '62 — Still Going Strong. (Teletext) (9544748)
- 10.55 Life's A Bitch: Susan Nickson's bleakly comic look at the life of a woman from womb to tomb. Starring Kathy Burke. Sean Hughes and Lorraine Ashbourne (s) (504854)
- 11.25 FILM: The Naked Kiss (1964, b/w) starring Constance Towers as a prostitute whose efforts to leave her profession and live a normal life are thwarted by small-town hypocrisy. Directed by Samuel Fuller (837688)
- 1.05am Dispatches (s) (Teletext) (5550585)
- 1.55 FILM: Swagbell (1993) starring Peter O'Toole as an autistic young man who takes over the career and life of a young rock singer (Jodie Foster). Based on a novel by George Du Maurier and directed by Anthony Harvey (255404). Ends at 3.45

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**  
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Anglia News (1957549) 12.10pm-12.15 Anglia News (943670) 12.30 Emmerdale (56854) 1.00-1.30 Home and Away (56854) 5.10-5.30 Shortland Street (1294561) 6.25-7.00 5.30 Weather followed by Anglia News (52748) 12.30-1.00 Anglia News (114019) 11.40m-11.50m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 1.25pm-1.50m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 1.55pm-2.00m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 2.00m-2.30m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 2.30m-2.45m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 2.45m-3.15m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 3.15m-3.30m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 3.30m-3.45m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 3.45m-4.00m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 4.00m-4.15m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 4.15m-4.30m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 4.30m-4.45m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 4.45m-5.00m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 5.00m-5.15m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 5.15m-5.30m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 5.30m-5.45m Skyler - Winner Takes All (12232) 5.45m-6.00m Skyler - 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THURSDAY MAY 25 1995

## World Cup opens with hosts seeking more than victory over Australia in first match

# South Africa sees union as unifying force

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN CAPE TOWN



SOUTH AFRICA'S first international sporting pageant, the rugby union World Cup, will begin at the Newlands Stadium here today; the rainbow nation seeking its pot of gold at the rainbow's end. This tournament will earn a limited economy millions of rand, will lead some of its participants to a wealthier future and, if successful, may lure the Olympic Games and its attendant riches to Africa.

Parliament will rise at midday so that South Africa's leaders can attend the opening match between the host country and Australia, the 1991 champions and favourites to retain the Webb Ellis trophy. President Mandela paid a private visit to the South Africa team yesterday and will urge them on again today. A new anthem will be sung and the last standing tickets trickled over the counters yesterday.

The theme for South Africa is one team, one nation, taking sport as a bonding element in a country still fraught with tribal tension. To that extent, the other 15 participating countries will hope to play their part in creating a spectacle that will popularise rugby union and divert attention, if only momentarily, from the economic and social problems with which South Africa is still grappling.

Once the play begins, attention will also be diverted from the unseemly squabbling, accusations of profiteering, overpricing of match tickets and over-booking of hotel rooms that continue to be a daily diet of this and many other sporting occasions. The South African government has done well, so far, to restrict the possibility of public service groups and political parties from riding their particular hobby-horses on the back of the tournament and thereby

creating all the wrong images abroad.

It is a mark of this particular country that police chiefs in Western Province have announced that spectators carrying firearms or other dangerous weapons will not be allowed at matches. Such a statement would raise eyebrows in many a European country but remains a fact of life here. Indeed, it is easy enough to look harder at the periphery of this global gathering than at the reason for it: the game of rugby union.

The game is also undergoing a massive upheaval, which involves casting off cherished amateurism at the highest level. The third World Cup, this will be the last played under the existing amateur regulations; by 1999 some form of open rugby will have

been accepted, even though it will prove meaningless outside a coterie of some ten countries which can afford to reward players to a greater or lesser degree.

It is not drawing too long a bow to suggest that the winners at Newlands today can almost book their place in the final at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, on June 24. One half of the draw is easy compared with that faced by the loser which, in the minds of most neutrals, will be South Africa.

Even the Australia management agree that, if they overcome the South African hurdle, they can taper back in pool matches with Romania and Canada, build again in a quarter-final against the pool B runners-up — say, Italy — and a semi-final against, perhaps, France or Scotland.

The losers should win their remaining pool games before a likely quarter-final against the European champions, England, where the dubious prize for success is a semi-final against the country impossible to underestimate on a rugby field, New Zealand.

Ominously for South Africa, the Australia coach, Bob Dwyer, whose hand was on the tiller in 1991, too, believes his players are already performing at about 90 per cent efficiency. He has experience running like steel through the heart of the side, from Phil Kearns at hooker to the maverick, David Campese, on the right wing. He has the world's leading try-scorer in Campese and points-scorer in Michael Lynagh; he has height at the lineout and power in the scrum. Over half his team have played at Newlands before, when Australia won 26-3 in 1992. Where can he lose?

Well, he is playing one of rugby's most fanatical teams, fuelled by what its manager, Morné du Plessis, describes as "a wave of goodwill for the team across the country. It's something I have never experienced in my 25 years of involvement with South Africa



Pienaar, left, the South Africa captain, and Mulder in training yesterday on the eve of the game against Australia. Photograph: Ian Stewart

## Players weigh up price for success

FROM DAVID HANDS

can rugby. It's a critical time for our rugby when we are trying to grow the game across traditional barriers.

"But there is a broader aspect, in that if we can handle this World Cup, if everyone is happy with it, then the soccer World Cup can happen in Africa. If Cape Town pulls itself together, the Olympic Games of 2004 could happen here. This World Cup is more than blood and guts and points on the board." These, however, are the only issues for the players today.

Township apathy, page 13  
David Miller, page 45  
Wales ring changes, page 45  
Murphy's law, page 45

AMID the clatter of studs and the clink of cash, rugby union's third World Cup begins with players assessing what success or failure will mean to their corporate profile. If Australia repeat their 1991 victory, the players' company — Wallaby Promotions — will be able to increase the fees for promotional appearances and such individuals as David Campese and Michael Lynagh will be able to command a return well above the estimated £40,000 they, but

not all of their colleagues, are said to attract now.

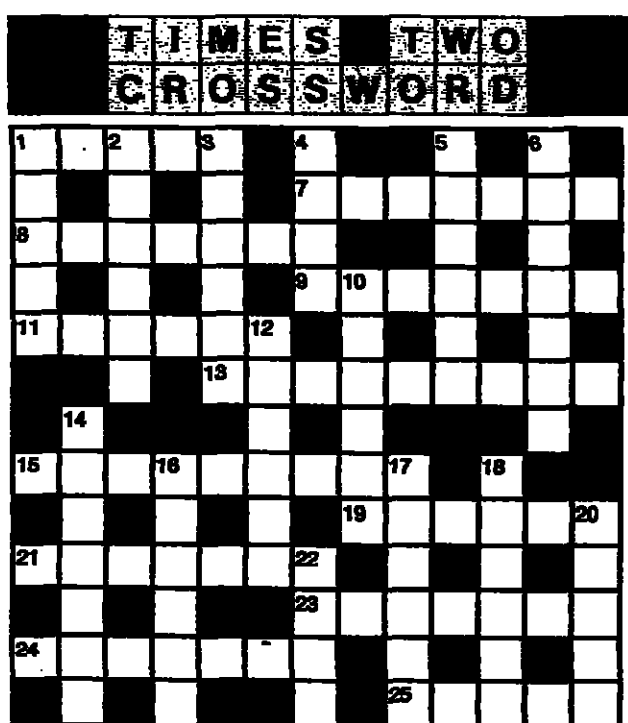
That is in addition to their other pursuits: Campese runs a sports and leisurewear business in Sydney and Lynagh, from Brisbane, is a real estate consultant. The same will be true for England, the beaten finalists in 1991. Their international players earned around £10,000 from off-the-field activities last season but are negotiating, in concert with the Rugby Football Union, a four-year deal which would introduce a sponsor's name onto the England jersey.

Though a figure of £6 million has been quoted for that deal, it is more likely to be around £2 million and negotiations are still continuing with an outcome expected by August.

"The idea is to reward players for the time they devote to rugby," Colin Herridge, the England squad's media liaison officer, said. "The sums we have in mind are to be regarded as a supplement to a player's existing earnings but speculation that a player might earn £30,000 a year is wide of the

mark. We don't want a player retiring from his non-rugby career."

A player's earnings would be related to appearances in international matches. Though England players have agreed not to discuss sponsorship options during the World Cup, Brian Moore, who is retiring after the tournament, told BBC TV: "Professionalism is not an option. It's a certainty. It might not be on the lines of rugby league in terms of win bonuses and the like, but it's coming."



No 479

- ACROSS
- 1 Frisk; prank (5)
  - 7 Announce; deferentially admit (5,2)
  - 8 Amaze; walk drunkenly (7)
  - 9 Use few words (2,5)
  - 11 Delicious; *Milada's* daughter-in-law (3-3)
  - 13 As it were (2,2,5)
  - 15 Make accusations specific (4,5)
  - 19 Become extinct (3,3)
  - 21 Organic manure (7)
  - 23 Score-settler (7)
  - 24 A bunch (7)
  - 25 Exchange of goods (5)
- DOWN
- 1 Easy; comfortable (5)
  - 2 Blood fluid; gas (6)
  - 3 (Professor) appointed by Crown (6)
  - 4 Restraint (4)
  - 5 Superluous (2,4)
  - 6 Sour fermented liquid (7)
  - 10 Inspired; called up (6)
  - 12 Swamp; disorder hindering progress (6)
  - 14 Splendid array; armour (7)
  - 15 Uncover (6)
  - 17 Mute (6)
  - 18 Open arcade; porch (6)
  - 20 Curt (5)
  - 22 Mountain pool (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 478

ACROSS: 1 Hatchet 5 Faced 8 Spill 9 Automat 10 Hardwired Hall 12 Smooth 14 Burner 17 Nothing doing 21 Refusal 22 Rhine 23 Pursue 24 Crochet

DOWN: 1 Hush-hush 2 Trier 3 Halfwit 4 Trance 5 Fetch 6 Camelot 7 Duty 11 Fragment 13 On offer 15 Undergo 16 En bloc 18 Hastie 19 Irish 20 Trap

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## Gloom descends on England as West Indies take whip hand

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (West Indies won toss): West Indies, with nine wickets in hand, need 124 runs to beat England

THE picnic baskets had not even been opened on the first day of the international summer when the confident smiles were wiped off English faces. For two decades now, only the foolish and the arrogant have dared to underestimate West Indies, and now, just when they seemed genuinely vulnerable, they reminded us that the same rules still apply.

England, so full of confidence and vitality on the eve of this Texaco Trophy series, did no justice to their refreshing mood with a lame inept batting performance. But it would be childish to lament such deficiencies to the neglect of some slick and disciplined West Indian cricket. They came into the game in poor form and reputedly poor spirits. Already, they have gone some way towards resuming normal business.

When a fourth interruption for rain and bad light ensured that a second day would be needed, it was England who were grateful for the adjournment. Defending an inadequate 199, albeit in conditions never ideal for strokeplay, they had already conceded the day's biggest partnership and West Indies, at 76 for one, had only 124 to make in 35.1 overs.

Richie Richardson's decision to field first had seemed perverse, for the sun was shining brightly and the forecast insisted that the day would deteriorate. But the preparation of the pitch had been hampered by rain, and local knowledge had it that the

time to bowl was early morning.

Local knowledge, of course, could not legislate for the ball being put in the wrong place and, for half a dozen overs, the problems that have afflicted the West Indian attack were apparent. Courtney Walsh began desultorily, dropping far too short for the sluggish pace of the pitch, while Curtly Ambrose's direction strayed in a way that was once unthinkable.

Ambrose never did find his rhythm and suffered the rare indignity of not being asked to bowl his full quota, but Walsh, adjusting his length and exploiting the available movement, led the attack in the manful, streetwise style of which much may be asked this summer. Ian Bishop's international return was an unequal-

fied success and, when Richardson turned belatedly to his make-up-the-numbers bowling, Hooper and Arthurton did him proud.

Throughout, the West Indian outcricet was exemplary, but England did little to obstruct them. Stewart played admirably, upright and assertive in all he did, but the rest of the top five managed 35 runs between them. They did not strike a single boundary, and three of them were out to strokes they will not have wished to see replayed.

Atherton is exempt. There was no shame in getting out to a ball from Walsh that pitched on off stump and straightened to take the edge. Lara holding the catch to his right at slip. But, somehow, the England innings never recovered from the loss of the captain. Too

much depends on his durability.

Hick and Thorpe have been in contrasting form for their counties. Hick scarcely failing, Thorpe seldom firing. Here, they looked as uncomfortable as each other, occupying 17 overs between them for an aggregate 15 runs. Both were caught behind, playing shots that betrayed anxiety.

When Ambrose returned for a second spell, he first offered two wickets before being pulled and driven for four by Stewart. He kicked the turf frustratedly. But for Bishop, who must have spent long days wondering if he would ever again bowl at this level, it was one more smooth step on the ladder, rewarded by the wicket of Fairbrother.

Stewart was out just when England needed him to press on, and although Ramprakash batted with pleasing authority, it was beyond him to fully repair the damage. He did drive Hooper over long-on for six and, with five overs left and 180 on the board, England could still budget for a respectable 220. They fell short, paradoxically, because Walsh's accuracy deserted him for one ball, and a high full toss dropped onto off stump via the startled Ramprakash's midriff.

Thereafter, the decline was gentle, and England's bowlers at first did nothing to compensate. Hooper was all grace and flow, Campbell always liable to explode into something expansive. It threatened to become embarrassing until Cork slid a leg cutter past Hooper, and the weather allowed England to dream of a better tomorrow.

### TRENT BRIDGE SCOREBOARD

West Indies won toss	
ENGLAND	
*M A Atherton c Lara b Walsh	8
(5min, 33 balls)	
A J Stewart b Hooper	74
(10min, 31 balls)	
G A Hick c Murray b Benjamin	8
(2min, 27 balls)	
G P Thorpe c Murray b Walsh	7
(10min, 10 balls)	
N H Fairbrother b Bishop	12
(2min, 23 balls)	
M R Ramprakash	38
(10min, 36 balls, 1 st, 1 four)	
P A J DeFreitas run out (Arthurton/Murray)	15
(10min, 23 balls)	
D G Cork b Arthurton	14
(2min, 27 balls)	
D Gough run out (Hooper)	3
(10min, 7 balls)	
S D Udal not out	5
(10min, 7 balls)	
A R C Fraser not out	4
(8min, 8 balls)	
Extras (b 11, w 5, nb 1)	17
Total (6 wks, 55 overs, 218min)	199
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26 (Stewart 16), 2-60 (Stewart 37), 3-85 (Stewart 49), 4-121 (Stewart 71), 5-125 (Ramprakash 19), 6-157 (Ramprakash 19), 7-186 (Cork 13), 8-190 (Gough 3), 9-191 (Udal 1).	
WEST INDIES	
C L Hooper c Cork	34
(5min, 37 balls, 6 fours)	
S I Campbell not out	34
(7min, 47 balls, 5 fours)	
B G Lara not out	6
(4min, 15 balls, 1 four)	
Extras (b 1, w 1)	2
Total (1 wk, 19.5 overs, 77 min)	76
*R B Richardson; J C Adams, K L Arthurton, J R Murray, W K M Benjamin, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86 (Campbell 31), 2-140 (one spell), 3-214 (one spell), 4-214 (one spell), 5-214 (one spell), 6-214 (one spell), 7-214 (one spell), 8-214 (one spell), 9-214 (one spell), 10-214 (one spell), 11-214 (one spell), 12-214 (one spell), 13-214 (one spell), 14-214 (one spell), 15-214 (one spell), 16-214 (one spell), 17-214 (one spell), 18-214 (one spell), 19-214 (one spell), 20-214 (one spell), 21-214 (one spell), 22-214 (one spell), 23-214 (one spell), 24-214 (one spell), 25-214 (one spell), 26-214 (one spell), 27-214 (one spell), 28-214 (one spell), 29-214 (one spell), 30-214 (one spell), 31-214 (one spell), 32-214 (one spell), 33-214 (one spell), 34-214 (one spell), 35-214 (one spell), 36-214 (one spell), 37-214 (one spell), 38-214 (one spell), 39-214 (one spell), 40-214 (one spell), 41-214 (one spell), 42-214 (one spell), 43-214 (one spell), 44-214 (one spell), 45-214 (one spell), 46-214 (one spell), 47-214 (one spell), 48-214 (one spell), 49-214 (one spell), 50-214 (one 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